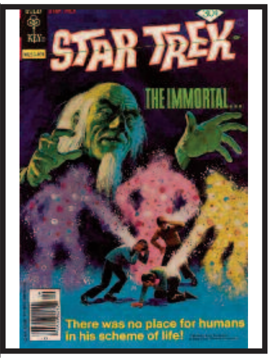
STAR TREK

VOL. 5

GOLD KEY COMIC BOOKS



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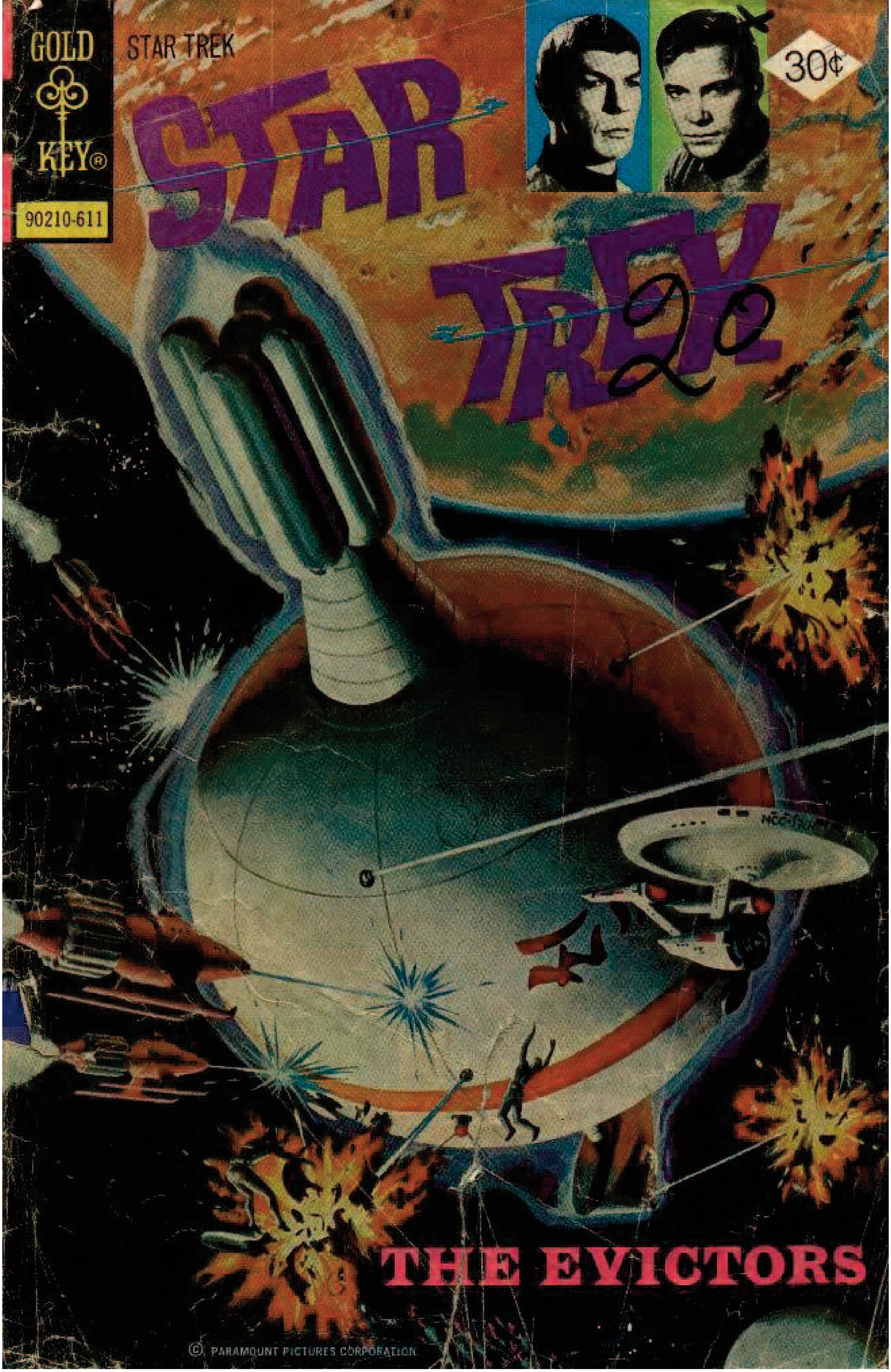
GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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STAR TREK
THE EVICTORS
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"CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:27:12. WE ARE CARRYING OUT A PROTOCOL CALL UPON THE PLANET NRAKA CELEBRATING ITS 10,000TH YEAR OF RECORDED HISTORY..."
...AND LET US HOPE, CAPTAIN KIRK, THAT YOUR VISIT PRESAGES SUCH FUTURE CONTACT AMONG OUR WORLDS!
I'M CERTAIN IT WILL, SUPREME COUNCILOR DVOR! MR. SPOCK, A STUDENT OF YOUR CULTURE, WILL REPLY TO YOUR TOAST!
MAY THE SHIELD OF ZOTAR PROTECT YOU, HIS WISDOM--WHICH WAS AS 10,000 WISE ONES, GUIDE YOU, HIS FAITH...
...WHICH BROUGHT FORTH LIFE FROM DEATH--BLESS YOUR WORLD WITH ETERNAL PEACE!
WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH OF OUR CULTURE!
THIS ZOTAR--HE WAS ALL THOSE THINGS? MILITARY MAN, SCIENTIST AND RELIGIOUS LEADER?
YES! IN YOUR EARTH TERMS ZOTAR WAS MOSES, CAESAR, EINSTEIN AND PAUL BUNYAN--COMBINED!
I BELIEVE THE SUPREME COUNCILOR'S DAUGHTER CAN TELL IT BETTER THAN I, HOWEVER! EH, MISS RAVA?
HE INVENTED OUR WRITTEN LANGUAGE, GAVE US MUSIC AND MATHEMATICS, TAUGHT US TO LOVE EACH OTHER--
WHEN DID HE HAVE TIME TO REST?
PERHAPS ON THE SEVENTH DAY!

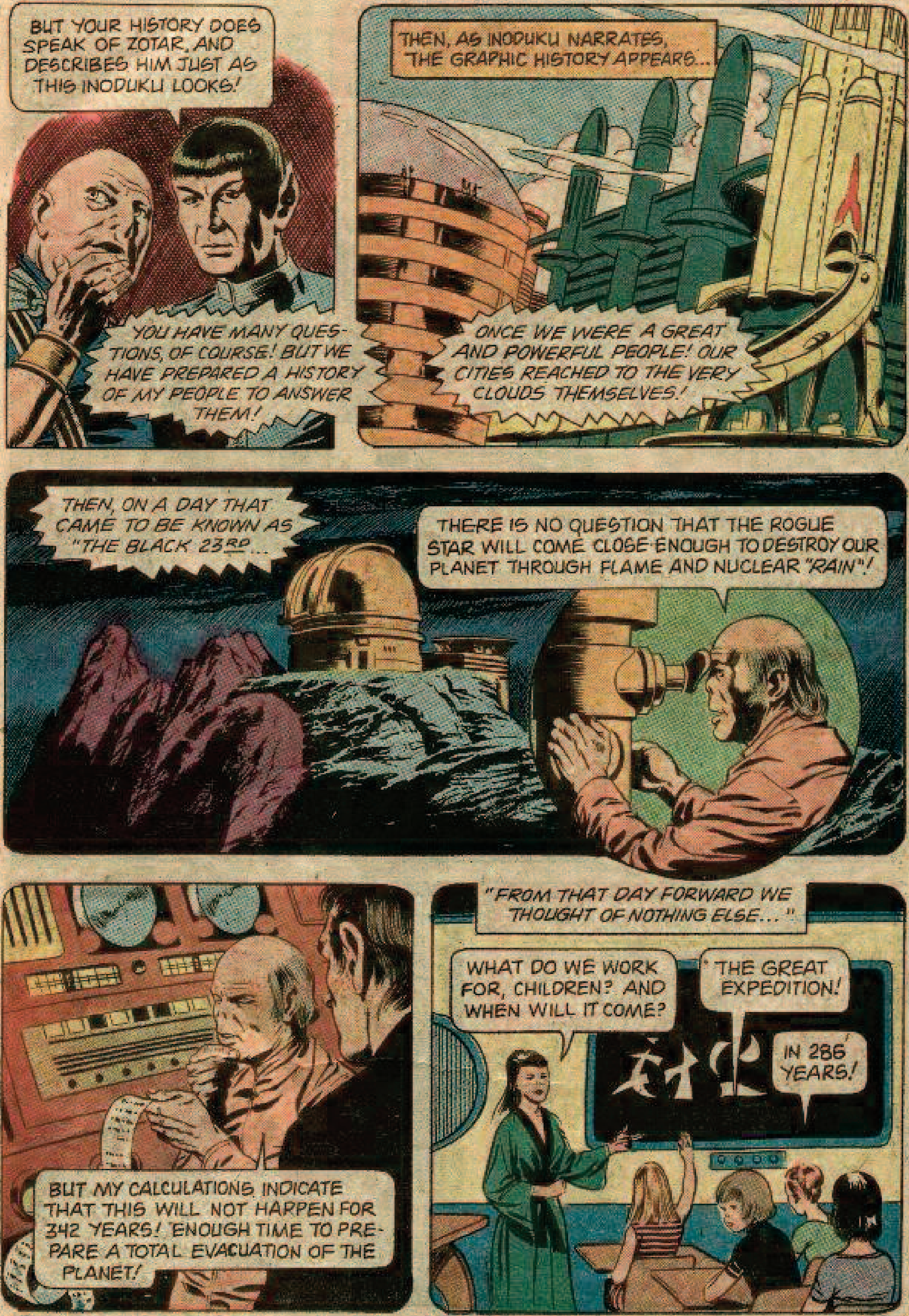
TO UNDERSTAND ZOTAR, COME IN-TO THE STREETS AND SEE THE PEOPLE'S JOY DURING THE PAGEANT!
AND WE, GENTLEMEN, CAN WATCH IT FROM MY BALCONY!
MY COMPLIMENTS ON THAT BEEF DISH, SUPREME COUNCILOR!
THANK YOU, MR. SPOCK! BUT IT WAS NOT BEEF! MORE LIKE WHAT YOU WOULD CALL DOG!
SHORTLY, AS SUN-DOWN APPROACHES...
STAY CLOSE TO ME--THERE ARE TWO MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS SQUARE!
I'D LOVE THE POPCORN CONCESSION!
WHAT IS POOP-CORN?
SUDDENLY, MR. SCOTT REACTS TO A DANGER SIGN...
THAT MAN! STOP HIM! HE HAS A GUN!
NO! NO, MR. SCOTT! THAT IS A DECO-BLAZER!
THERE IS A SOFT, EXPLODING SOUND, AND THEN...
FANTASTIC! WE CALL THEM "FIREWORKS"! BUT THEY'RE DANGER-OUS IN A CROWD!
FWOOSH
AHHHHHH
NOT AT ALL! A BIO-SENSOR IN EVERY SHELL KEEPS IT FROM EXPLODING WITHIN REACH OF ANY LIVING THING!

...AND THE TWO-HEADED INSECT IS CALLED A "TATI-MORO"-- BEAUTIFUL IN THE EXTREME! I COLLECT THEM!
A MILITARY MAN MUST NEED MANY SUCH HOBBIES ON THIS PEACEFUL PLANET!
MASS CRIMINALTY-- WAR-- NO LONGER EXISTS HERE! BUT WAR FROM THE OUTSIDE IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE! WE STAY PREPARED!
EXCUSE ME! AS THE SUN SETS IN THE WEST, WATCH THE EASTERN HORIZONS!
WHAT IN--? RISING LIKE A SUN--A BRIGHT SPOT IN THE SKY!
A RECTANGLE OF CHEMICAL PARTICLES PLACED IN SPACE 1/1000TH LIGHT-SECOND FROM HERE!
186 MILES OUT IN SPACE! THEN THAT RECTANGLE MUST BE A GOOD TWENTY MILES ACROSS!
WATCH, CAPTAIN!
LOOK, MR. SPOCK! IT'S A GIANT MOVIE SCREEN!
EXACTLY, CAPTAIN! LASERS OF INVISIBLE LIGHT ACTIVATED BY THE CHEMICAL PARTICLES! THAT IS AN ACTOR MADE UP AS--ZOTAR!

AND SO BEGINS THE GREAT SKY PAGEANT!
THE WORLD DID BE-COME A THING OF FIRE AND ZOTAR WENT FORTH AND DID CONQUER THE FLAMES!
HE DID MAKE THE DEAD RISE FROM THE GROUND AND THEY WERE JOYOUS AND DID EXALT HIM!
SANDORA! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
SANDORA
AND HE DID WRITE THE FIRST WORD!
NOBODY KNOWS TRULY! SOME SAY IT'S LOVE, SOME-- WISDOM, OTHERS--ETERNAL LIFE!

SUDDENLY...
THERE SEEMS TO BE A JAGGED HOLE DEVELOPING AT THE CENTER OF THE SCREEN, SJA-YO!
SANOORA
HOW CAN THIS BE? IN THE NEAR-VACUUM OF SPACE, ONLY A COMET OR A SPACESHIP COULD DISTURB IT! I MUST CONTACT OUR OBSERVATORY!
MINUTES LATER...
YOU HAVE SEEN THE CAUSE OF THIS DISTURBANCE, PROFESSOR!
YES, GENERAL SJA-YO! I SHALL TIE OUR ELECTRONIC TELESCOPE INTO THE LINE SO YOU MAY SEE IT, TOO!
THE IMAGE ON THE SCREEN BLURS AND THEN REFOCUSES...
IT IS A FOREIGN SPACE VEHICLE--LARGER THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE EVER DREAMED OF GENERAL! SEVERAL MILES IN DIAMETER, BY MY ESTIMATE!
I HAVE A COMMUNICATION FROM THE ALIEN SHIP ON THE MAIN VIEWER, GENERAL!
HEAR ME, DWELLERS OF THE WORLD WE APPROACH! I AM INODUKU, LEADER OF THE SANOORA!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE IMAGE APPEARS ON GIANT PUBLIC VIEWERS ALL OVER THAT WORLD...
IT IS ZOTAR!
ZOTAR HAS COME!
THE ETERNAL LIGHT IS AMONG US!
IN THAT ONE SQUARE ALONE, TWO MILLION BEINGS KNEEL IN ECSTATIC TRIBUTE...
I CAN'T FEEL WHAT THEY DO, SINCE ZOTAR MEANS NOTHING TO ME! BUT I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS...
...THAT A SAVIOUR HAS COME!
ONCE MORE THE VOICE OF THE GOD-FIGURE CRACKLES FORTH...
HEAR ME WELL! ONCE MY PEOPLE, THE SANOORA, DWELT UPON YOUR WORLD--CLIMBED ITS MOUNTAINS, FISHED ITS STREAMS-- 500,000 YEARS AGO!
NOW WE HAVE RETURNED-- AND IT IS YOU WHO MUST GO!
AND, IN A SINGLE MOMENT, THE SAVIOUR AND SAINT HAS TURNED SATANIC...
HOW CAN THIS BE-- THE "KING OF LOVE," THE "ENGINEER OF PEACE"... THREATENS US WHO WORSHIP HIM?
IS HE A FRAUD? OR A GOD WHOSE WRATH WE HAVE PROVOKED?
AND HOW CAN OTHER PEOPLE HAVE DWELT HERE-- WHEN OUR HISTORY SAYS NOTHING OF THEM?


BUT YOUR HISTORY DOES SPEAK OF ZOTAR, AND DESCRIBES HIM JUST AS THIS INODUKU LOOKS!
YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS, OF COURSE! BUT WE HAVE PREPARED A HISTORY OF MY PEOPLE TO ANSWER THEM!
THEN, AS INODUKU NARRATES, THE GRAPHIC HISTORY APPEARS...
ONCE WE WERE A GREAT AND POWERFUL PEOPLE! OUR CITIES REACHED TO THE VERY CLOUDS THEMSELVES!
THEN, ON A DAY THAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "THE BLACK 23RD...
THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE ROGUE STAR WILL COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO DESTROY OUR PLANET THROUGH FLAME AND NUCLEAR "RAIN"!
BUT MY CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN FOR 342 YEARS! ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE A TOTAL EVACUATION OF THE PLANET!
"FROM THAT DAY FORWARD WE THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE..."
WHAT DO WE WORK FOR, CHILDREN? AND WHEN WILL IT COME?
THE GREAT EXPEDITION!
IN 286 YEARS!

EACH SHIP WAS SIX-SQUARE MILES--AN ENTIRE CITY HOUSED IN A SINGLE SPACE VEHICLE!
EVEN SO, MANY HAD TO BE LEFT BEHIND--VIOLENT CRIMINALS, INCURABLY SICK AND HIGHLY DISTURBED ONES WERE CHOSEN!
YARRRRGH!
COWARDS!
MAY YOU BURN TO ASHES, EVERY ONE OF YOU!
WE WERE TOO FAR AWAY TO CLEARLY SEE THE LAST MOMENTS OF OUR WORLD, HERE RECREATED!
SINCE ALL RADIO ACTIVITY WOULD HAVE CLEARED IN 500,000 YEARS, WE CHOSE AN ORBIT THAT WOULD RETURN US HERE IN THAT TIME! BUT WE ARE WEARY OF WANDERING! WE RECLAIM OUR HOME!
WE WILL GIVE YOU OUR SHIPS AND YOU MAY FIND ANOTHER HOME! BUT WE WANT OUR SACRED PLANET BACK!
YOU HAVE ONE DAY TO CONSULT AND DECIDE!

"HERE IS AN ELECTRO-TELESCOPIC VIEW OF ONE OF YOUR ANCIENT CITIES..."
YES! AVARALD! IT WAS DESTROYED IN OUR FINAL WAR-- AND LEFT AS A MEMORIAL!
WITH THE NEXT SECOND...
SCREEEE
FWOOM
SPLOOSH!
"WE HAVE THE POWER TO DO THAT TO ALL YOUR CITIES IN A MATTER OF MIN-UTES! THINK WELL UPON YOUR ANSWER!"
THE GREAT SCREEN SUDDENLY DARKENS AND ALL IS SILENCE...
HOW COULD THIS BE POSSIBLE? HOW COULD AN ENTIRE NEW PEOPLE-- MY PEOPLE-- HAVE DEVELOPED HERE IN 500,000 YEARS?
TRUE, THE BIO-CHAIN, FROM AMOEBA TO INTELLI-GENT LIFE, WOULD TAKE 1,000 TIMES LONGER!

BUT SUPPOSE YOU DIDN'T START FROM "ZERO"! SUPPOSE YOU REALLY ARE DESCENDED FROM...
...THE SANOORA?... SKIN LIKE METAL... HOLES FOR NOSES? IMPOSSIBLE! ALSO THE ROGUE STAR LEFT NO SURVIVORS!
ARE WE SURE OF THAT, DR. SPOCK? HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE THE CITY-SHIPS TO GET SAFELY AWAY?
DEPENDING ON THE SIZE AND VELOCITY OF THE STAR, THEY WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE PERHAPS ONE MONTH TO SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER!
"THEN, SUPPOSE THERE WAS ENOUGH TIME FOR THE STRANDED ONES TO EQUIP A GIANT CAVE...
"... AND THAT THE DISASTER WAS LESS THAN EXPECTED AND THE CAVE SURVIVED IT..."
"YEARS LATER, THEY SURFACED TO A TOTALLY PULVERIZED WORLD... AND A DEADLY RADIOACTIVE ATMOSPHERE..."
"MOST DIED WITHIN DAYS OR WEEKS--A FEW SURVIVED..."
"THAT FEW LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO REPRODUCE! BUT RADIO-ACTIVITY CREATED GENETIC CHANGES...
BLUE SKIN, AND WITH A NOSE INSTEAD OF SLITS..."
"THE LAST OF THEM MAY WELL HAVE DIED BEFORE THE CHILDREN WERE MORE THAN A FEW YEARS OLD..."
MA-MEEE? MA-MEEE?
"AND SO YOUR PEOPLE WERE BORN WITH ONLY A THIN MEMORY OF THEIR PAST-- THE LEGEND OF ZOTAR!"

I REJECT YOUR VERSION OF HISTORY! I SAY WE ARE OUR OWN PEOPLE--NOT SOME FREAK DESCENDANTS OF THOSE OTHERS!
A WORD OF CAUTION, GENERAL! "THOSE OTHERS" ARE IN THE IMAGE OF ZOTAR!
DO YOU HEAR THOSE ANGRY VOICES? IF THOSE MEN WHO COME LIKE ZOTAR ARE ONLY PLUNDERERS...
...THEN THE GOD OF YOUR PEOPLE IS DEAD! AND THAT ANGER OUT THERE...
"...WILL BE HEARD... ONE MILLION FOLD... AROUND YOUR WORLD IN MINUTES..."
THERE IS NO ZOTAR!
GOD IS DEAD!
GIVE ME THAT WOMAN!
I'LL GIVE YOU MY MONEY! DON'T KILL ME!
RAVA! THIS WAY! THEY'VE ALL GONE MAD--ALL TWO MILLION!
THERE IS BUT ONE ANSWER TO THAT MADNESS! DESTROY THE THREAT TO OUR WORLD! KILL THE SANOORA!
END PART 1

WE CANNOT LET THIS BE SEEN BY OUR PEOPLE! SUCH A DISASTER WILL INCREASE THE MADNESS IN THE STREETS!
YOU SEE IT IS USELESS TO RESIST US! AND WE ASK FOR WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS! SURRENDER YOUR PLANET!
NO! I AGREE WITH GENERAL SJA-YO! YOU'VE SHOWN US NO PROOF THAT YOU WERE ONCE NATIVES OF OUR WORLD!
SEE THEN THAT OUR ALPHABET LOOKS AS YOURS FIRST DID! BECAUSE YOUR ANCESTORS LEARNED IT FROM US!
IT IS TRUE! THAT IS OUR ANCIENT SCRIPT! BUT THIS COULD BE A FRAUD TOO! I APPEAL TO CAPTAIN KIRK...
WOULD YOU SURRENDER YOUR WORLD WITH SO LITTLE PROOF! OR WOULD YOU FIGHT TO THE DEATH-- FOR FREEDOM?
BUT THE CAPTAIN IS STRANGELY SILENT...
ANSWER HIM, CAPTAIN! HE TAKES YOUR SILENCE FOR CONSENT!
TELL HIM NOT TO WAGE A DISASTROUS WAR!
BUT STILL CAPTAIN KIRK REMAINS SILENT...

HE'S ASKED ME WHAT I WOULD DO IF MY OWN WORLD WERE THREATENED! I KNOW I WOULD--FIGHT!
YOUR OWN EMOTIONS CANNOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OUR OATH TO REMAIN NEUTRAL, CAPTAIN!
WELL, CAPTAIN... YOUR ANSWER?
I BELIEVE THE GENERAL IS CORRECT--THESE ARE SPACE PIRATES! BUT I WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID AN ALL-OUT WAR!
YOU ARE BEGGING THE QUESTION, SIR!
IF THIS WERE MY WORLD, WOULD I FIGHT BEFORE I WOULD ABANDON IT?
...YES!
MEANWHILE...
LOOK! A FOREIGNER!
LET'S GO! FROM HERE ON THE PARTY GETS ROUGH!
YES--BUT HE IS NOT ONE OF THEM!
NO MATTER! DEATH TO ALL FOREIGNERS!
KILL!
KILL THE FOREIGNER!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO OUTRUN THEM UNLESS WE FIND A WAY OF SLOWING THEM DOWN!

THIS SHOULD SLOW THEM A BIT-- IF I CAN BUDGE THE BEAUTY! UNH-H
BUT IT'S NOT EASY, LASSIE!
THEN, WITH ONE FINAL SPURT OF ADRENALIN...
CRASH!
THAT WON'T GIVE US TOO MUCH OF A LEAD! I THINK WE'D BETTER TRY HIDING OUT INSTEAD OF RUNNING! THAT WARE-HOUSE -- OR WHATEVER IT IS -- LET'S GO!
NO SIGN OF THEM ANY-WHERE! THEY MUST BE HIDING! SEARCH EVERY BUILDING! HURRY!
... AND IF WE ATTACK TEN-FOLD, ALL FIRING AT THE SAME POINT AND SAME MOMENT--
YOU WILL STILL NOT PENETRATE THEIR SHIP, GENERAL...
...I'M AFRAID YOUR SCIENCE IS NOT AT THAT LEVEL--YET!

BUT YOUR SCIENCE COULD PROTECT US, COULDN'T IT, MR. SPOCK?
I AM UNDER A CONSTANT COMMAND TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY, GENERAL! I CANNOT HELP YOU!
SUDDENLY, AS CAPTAIN KIRK'S COMMUNICATOR CRACKLES TO LIFE...
STARSHIP ENTERPRISE TO CAPTAIN KIRK! WE ARE BEING APPROACHED BY AN OVERSIZED SHIP OF UNKNOWN DESIGN! IT REFUSES TO IDENTIFY!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS, LT. SULU! USE ONLY DEFENSIVE TACTICS TO AVOID CONTACT!
THEN, AS A RASPING ROAR BURSTS FROM THE MINI-COMMUNICATOR...
ENTERPRISE, DO YOU READ ME? REPLY, ENTERPRISE!
KWOOM
WE ARE STILL HERE, SIR! BUT THAT WAS A NEAR ONE! I HAVE ORDERED INSTANT RETREAT WITH DIVERSIONARY COURSE! BUT IT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH!
THEN, THE GIANT SCREEN SPRINGS TO LIFE...
MY APOLOGIES FOR ATTACKING YOUR SHIP, CAPTAIN! BUT WE SHALL USE ANY PRESSURE REQUIRED TO FORCE EVACUATION OF THE PLANET!

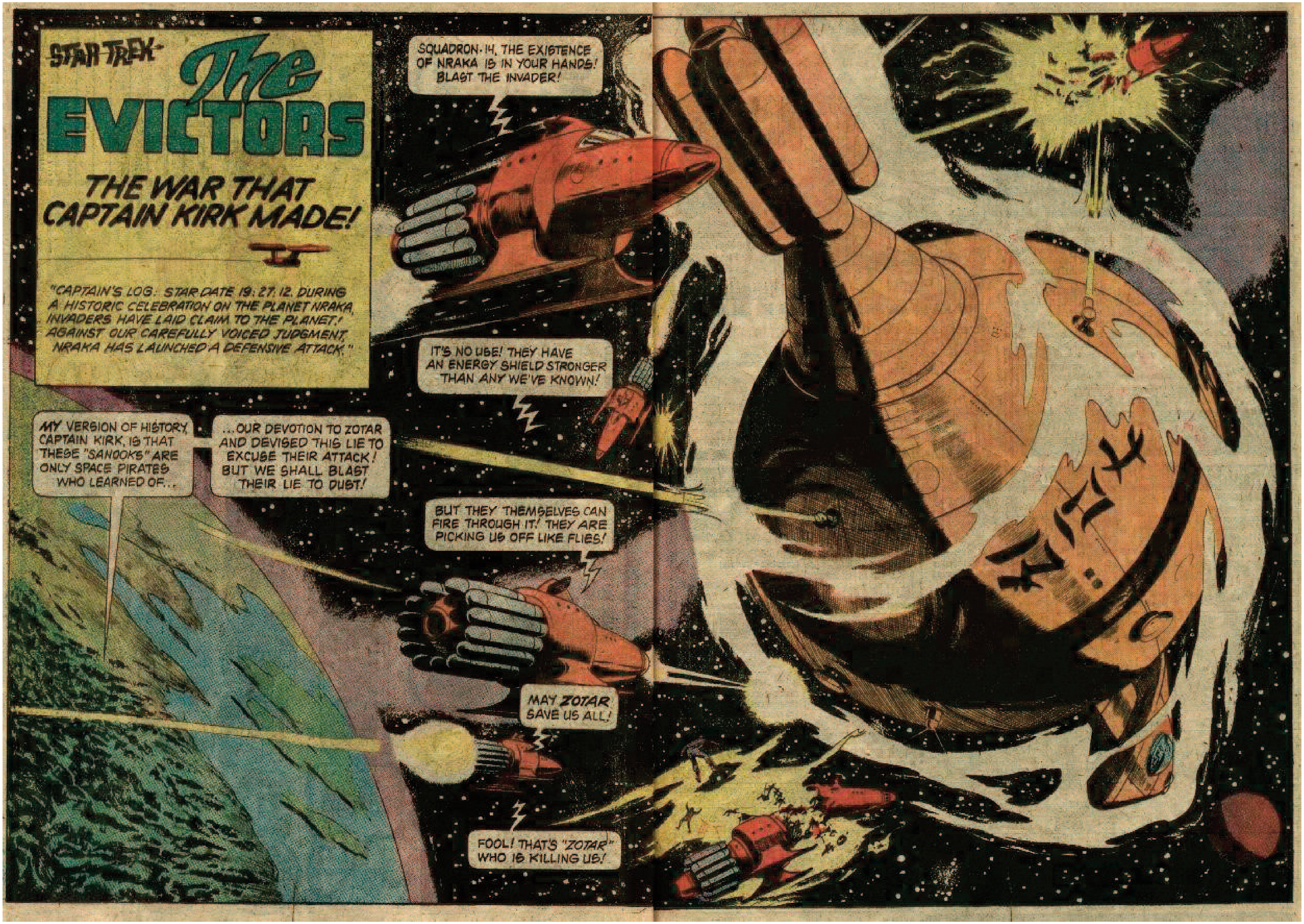
WE SHALL PURSUE YOUR STARSHIP AND DESTROY IT--UNLESS OUR TERMS ARE MET!
WHOOM!
ZZZZZZAPPP
THE SCREEN GOES BLANK AND THERE IS A MOMENTARY SILENCE! THEN...
GENERAL, YOU WILL PLACE A TECHNICAL CREW AT MY COMMAND IMMEDIATELY! I WILL ADAPT YOUR PRESENT WEAPONS FOR FULL PENETRATION!
THANK YOU, MR. SPOCK... THANK YOU!
AND, IN THE WAREHOUSE...
I SAID IT'S TIME TO SPLIT, LASSIE! USE THE BACK DOOR! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
NO! I WILL NOT GO!
LOOK, GIRL, IF ANY HARM COMES TO THE DAUGHTER OF THE SUPREME COUNCILOR, MY PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME.
THEN WE WILL STAND--AND FALL TOGETHER!
YOU, OUT THERE! I HAVE TO WARN YOU--I'M ARMED!
THEN PREPARE TO USE IT, FOREIGN SWINE! WE ARE COMING FOR YOU!

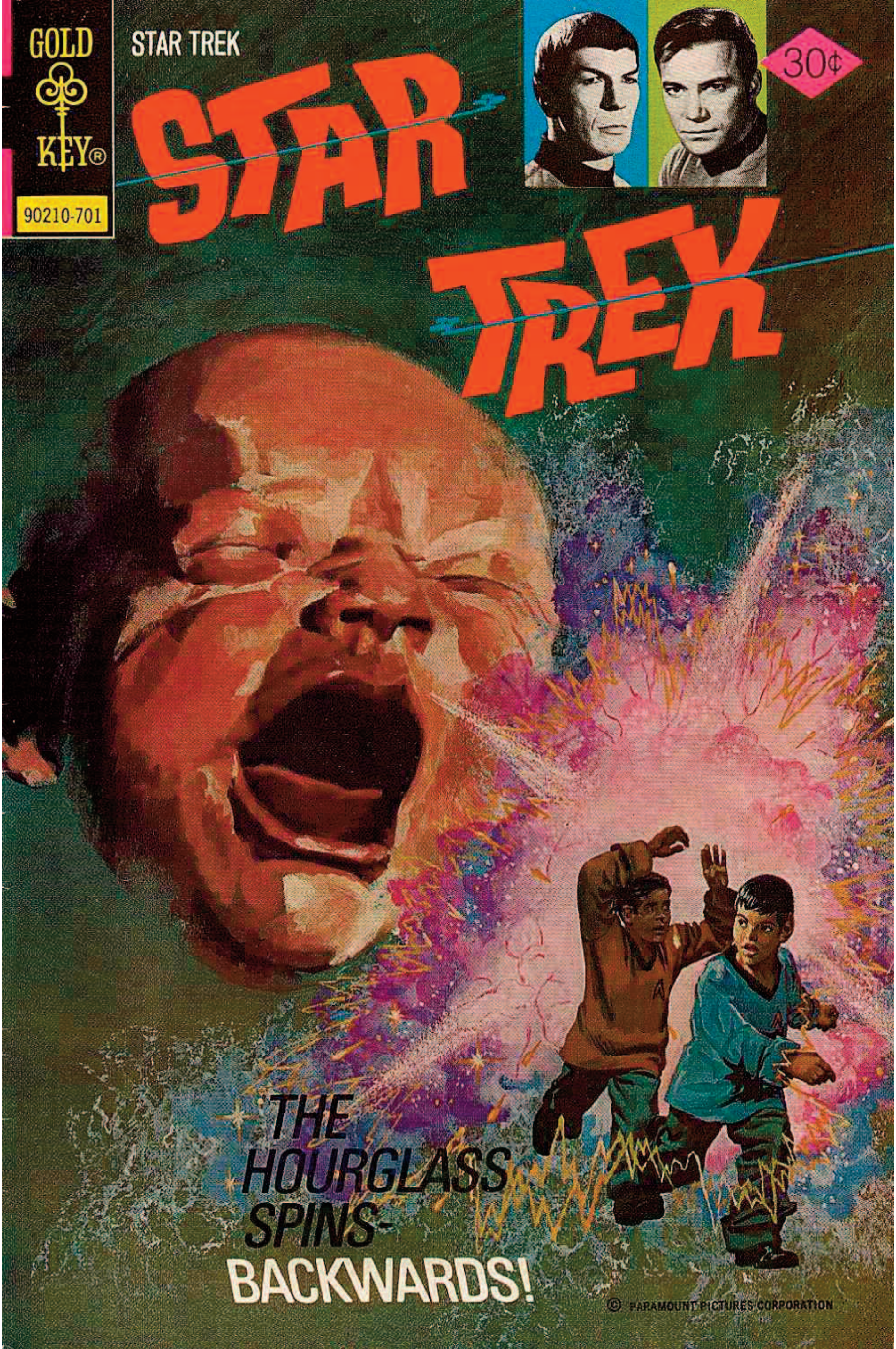
SHORTLY...
STARSHIP ENTERPRISE TO CAPTAIN KIRK... ENEMY CRAFT OVER-TAKING US, SIR!... REQUEST PERMISSION TO OPEN FIRE!
NO! YOU WILL NOT FIRE THE FIRST SHOT!... REPEAT, YOU WILL FIRE ONLY IN REPLY TO AN ATTACK!
PREPARE TO OPEN FIRE ON THE STARSHIP! SET EXPLOSIVE POWER AT MAX-10! THAT SHIP MUST NOT LIVE!
WAIT, COMMANDER! A FLEET OF ATTACK SHIPS ARE OVER-TAKING US!
THEY ARE USELESS AGAINST US! THEIR WEAPONS CANNOT PENETRATE OUR ENERGY SHIELD!
WHOOM!

WE'VE BEEN HIT, SIR! A GLANCING BLOW-- BUT IT DID PENETRATE OUR ENERGY SHIELD!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? THEY HAVE NO WEAPON CAPABILITY!
THEY ARE GETTING THROUGH TO US, ALL OF THEM! SOONER OR LATER--
WHOOM!
WHOOM!
WHOOM!
ON AND ON, THE BATTLE RAGES...
IT'S NO USE, SIR! WE'VE FINISHED OFF SHIP AFTER SHIP BUT STILL THEY KEEP COMING! WE HAVE NO CHOICE! WE MUST TURN BACK!
LIKE SOME GREAT WHALE OF SPACE, THE GIANT SHIP TURNS AND BEGINS A SMOLDERING RETREAT...
AND IN THE WAREHOUSE...
AND STILL THEY KEEP COMING! I'M AFRAID THEY'VE GOT MORE GUTS THAN I'VE GOT UNBROKEN KNUCKLES! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, LASSIE!
DIE, FOREIGN DOG!

SMACK
OOF!
AHHHHH
BUT SHEER NUMBERS ARE NOT TO BE DENIED...
AND NOW YOU DIE!
STOP! HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? THE BATTLE IS OVER! OUR WORLD IS--FREE!
SOME HOURS LATER...
AND SO THE SACRED MEMORY OF ZOTAR REMAINS UNSCARRED! HE TAUGHT US LOVE, AND TOLERANCE SHALL INSPIRE COUNTLESS GENERATIONS TO COME!

FOR ME, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THE MEMORY OF YOUR BRAVERY, MR. SCOTT!
AND I WILL NA' FORGET THAT PLUCKY LASS WHO SHARED A GRIM MOMENT WITH ME IN A DUSTY WAREHOUSE!
YOU MISSED THE CELE-BRATION, MR. SPOCK!
A BRIEF HISTORIC DETOUR, CAPTAIN! I WANTED TO IN-SPECT THE ANCIENT RUIN THAT WAS ATTACKED!
AND, IN THE GIANT CRATER, I FOUND A SECOND CIVILIZA-TION BENEATH THE FIRST! JUST A FEW RELICS, INCLUDING THIS!
AN ANCIENT STATUE OF ZOTAR?
I'D SAY NOT, CAPTAIN!... CARBON-14 TESTS INDICATE IT IS FAR OLDER THAN THE PRESENT INHABITANTS!
Y-YOU MEAN THAT STORY OF THE EVACUATION WAS TRUE? TH-THOSE PEOPLE WERE NOT *PIRATES?*
IT WOULD SEEM SO, CAPTAIN! AND SO THEY ARE DOOMED TO CONTINUE WANDERING SPACE-- A "*WORLD*" WITHOUT A PLANET TO LIVE ON!
WAS THERE A CHOICE, MR. SPOCK? COULD WE HAVE FOUND A BETTER WAY OUT? I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEVER KNOW!
THE END


STAR TREK
The EVICTORS
THE WAR THAT CAPTAIN KIRK MADE!
"CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:27.12. DURING A HISTORIC CELEBRATION ON THE PLANET NRAKA, INVADERS HAVE LAID CLAIM TO THE PLANET! AGAINST OUR CAREFULLY VOICED JUDGMENT, NRAKA HAS LAUNCHED A DEFENSIVE ATTACK."
MY VERSION OF HISTORY, CAPTAIN KIRK, IS THAT THESE "SANOOKS" ARE ONLY SPACE PIRATES WHO LEARNED OF...
...OUR DEVOTION TO ZOTAR AND DEVISED THIS LIE TO EXCUSE THEIR ATTACK! BUT WE SHALL BLAST THEIR LIE TO DUST!
SQUADRON-14, THE EXISTENCE OF NRAKA IS IN YOUR HANDS! BLAST THE INVADER!
IT'S NO USE! THEY HAVE AN ENERGY SHIELD STRONGER THAN ANY WE'VE KNOWN!
BUT THEY THEMSELVES CAN FIRE THROUGH IT! THEY ARE PICKING US OFF LIKE FLIES!
MAY ZOTAR SAVE US ALL!
FOOL! THAT'S "ZOTAR" WHO IS KILLING US!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STAR TREK
STAR TREK
30¢
THE HOURGLASS SPINS-
BACKWARDS!
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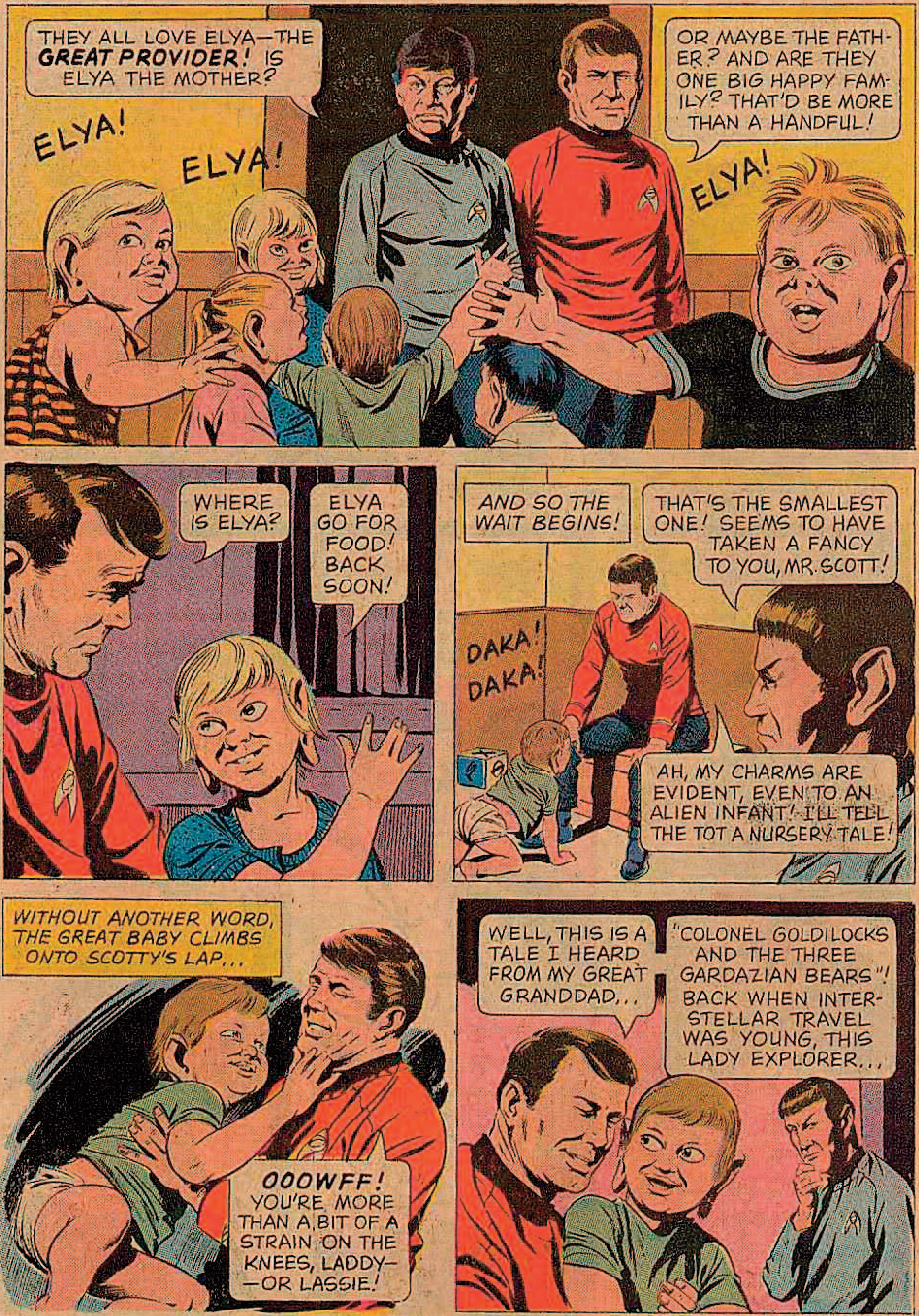
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE 19:29:06. Space probes of NEWLY CONTACTED PLANET-137 showed no definite signs of life! But once we set down on NCP-137...
THERE WAS ADVANCED LIFE HERE, ALL RIGHT... AND THEY WERE GIANTS! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE DOORS, MON!
THEY MUST HAVE STOOD TWELVE FEET TALL!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
A CUBE WITH STRANGE SYMBOLS ON EACH SIDE!
YOU'VE A SHARP EYE, DOCTOR! (HA!)
IF IT WEREN'T SO HUGE I'D SAY IT WAS A CHILD'S ALPHABET BLOCK!
THEN SAY IT, MR. SPOCK! ON A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE STOOD 12 FEET TALL...
...THE CHILDREN WOULD BE BIG ENOUGH FOR BLOCKS THAT SIZE! MY HUNCH IS WE'LL FIND THINGS A LOT MORE CURIOUS THAN THAT ON THIS DESERTED WORLD!
A DOLL! THEY WERE BIG, ALL RIGHT! AND IF THEIR DOLLS WERE MADE IN THEIR IMAGE, THEN THEY LOOKED LIKE THIS!

SUDDENLY, AS DR. McCOY TURNS OVER THE DOLL, A HIGH, REEDY, ALMOST HUMAN VOICE STARTLES THEM!
SEEYAKA... GOOREEYA... ANJO FEDOORKO!
IT 'TALKS'! SOME PRIMITIVE REED DEVICE... NOT ELECTRONIC! THEY WEREN'T UP TO THAT! UNFORTUNATELY—
—OUR LINGUA-DISCS ARE BASED ON TELEPATHY! THEY CAN ONLY 'READ' SPEECH WITH A MIND BEHIND IT!
THIS WAS SOME 'LITTLE' KID'S 'BALL'!
RIGHT! BUT WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE STREET IS STREWN ONLY WITH TOYS?
SOMETHING SUDDENLY FLITS PAST THE CORNER OF KIRK'S EYE!
THOUGHT I SAW A MOVEMENT— IN THAT ALLEY!
PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, CAPTAIN!
WITH PHASERS ON STUN FREQUENCY, THEY ADVANCE.
WHY, IT'S A BABY!
SOME BABY!
NO... HURT... BABOO... BABOO... NO BAD BOY! (SOB!)

WE WILL NOT HURT YOU! WE ARE FRIENDS!
NO UNDER—STAND! BABOO—NO UNDER-STAND!
TAKE US TO YOUR PARENTS, CHILD! YOUR MOTHER— OR FATHER!
MOTHER? WHAT IS MOTHER?
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A MOTHER IS! IS THAT POSSIBLE?
WELL, WE HAVE FOUND WORLDS WITH COMMUNAL STRUCTURES, WHERE PARENTAL MODELS HAVE LARGELY DISAPPEARED!
NO! IT'S SOMETHING STRANGER THAN THAT —I'M SURE OF IT!
COME ON, BABOO... YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW US YOUR WORLD!
NO! NO GO! DANGER! BAD THINGS! YOU RUN AWAY!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET RID OF US, BABOO? WHAT'S THE DANGER? WHAT BAD THINGS?
BAD THINGS HURT YOU! RUN AWAY! LEAVE BABOO! BET-TER FOR YOU!

ON A HUNCH, THE CAPTAIN PULLS OPEN THE CLOSEST DOOR!
I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK INSIDE! IF I'M NOT BACK IN THREE MINUTES—
I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN!
NO GO! BAD THINGS! (SOB!) NO GO!
MR SPOCK FINDS HIMSELF COUNTING THE SECONDS...
IT IS AT SUCH MOMENTS THAT I RECOGNIZE HOW MUCH I RESPECT AND ENJOY CAPTAIN KIRK! IF I WERE MORE EMOTIONAL...
NEVER MIND! THE TIME IS UP! WE MUST MOVE IN!
WEAPONS DRAWN, THEY MOVE FORWARD, UNTIL...
WELCOME TO THE NURSERY, MR. SPOCK!
BABOO... BABOO... (BAW-W!)
NO CRY, SOOTA! BABOO IS BACK!
REMARKABLE, CAPTAIN! AND BABOO—I THINK HE'S THE OLDEST!

THEN, AS THE OTHERS JOIN THEM...
THIS ONE HAS A CUT ON THE ELBOW! I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
STEADY NOW, SON—OR DAUGHTER—AS THE CASE MAY BE!
UGGGH!
SWISH
CLUNK!
NIKI! NIKI! NIKI!
THESE 'BABIES' ARE STRONGER THAN THEY LOOK!
AYE, AND SMARTER, DOCTOR! HE INSTANTLY FOUND YOUR WEAKEST SPOT—YOUR HEAD!
YES, THEY ARE VERY STRONG...AND APPARENTLY VERY HEALTHY! THE QUESTION IS—WHO IS KEEPING THEM THAT WAY?
RIGHT, MR. SPOCK! WELL FED AND FAIRLY CLEAN! BUT HOW?
WHO TAKES CARE OF YOU, BABOO? WHO FEEDS YOU?
ELYA FEED BABOO! ELYA FEED ALL!


THEY ALL LOVE ELYA—THE **GREAT PROVIDER!** IS ELYA THE MOTHER?
OR MAYBE THE FATHER? AND ARE THEY ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY? THAT'D BE MORE THAN A HANDFUL!
ELYA!
ELYA!
ELYA!
WHERE IS ELYA?
ELYA GO FOR FOOD! BACK SOON!
AND SO THE WAIT BEGINS!
THAT'S THE SMALLEST ONE! SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A FANCY TO YOU, MR. SCOTT!
DAKA! DAKA!
AH, MY CHARMS ARE EVIDENT, EVEN TO AN ALIEN INFANT! I'LL TELL THE TOT A NURSERY TALE!
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE GREAT BABY CLIMBS ONTO SCOTTY'S LAP...
OOOWFF! YOU'RE MORE THAN A BIT OF A STRAIN ON THE KNEES, LADDY—OR LASSIE!
WELL, THIS IS A TALE I HEARD FROM MY GREAT GRANDDAD...
"COLONEL GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE GARDAZIAN BEARS"! BACK WHEN INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL WAS YOUNG, THIS LADY EXPLORER...

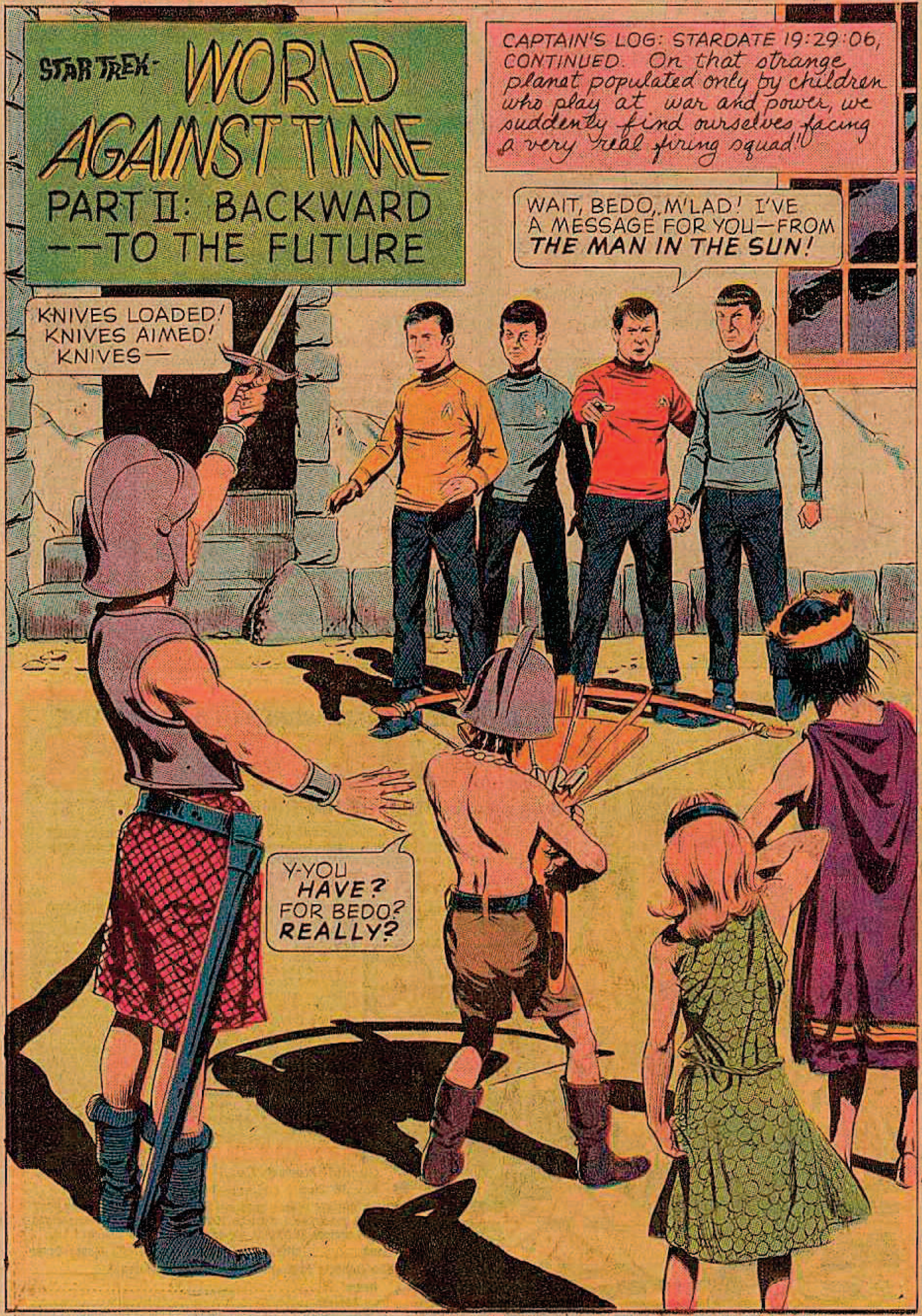
AND, AS THE NURSERY-TALE-OF-TOMORROW UNWINDS...
...AND THE SMALLEST GARDAZIAN BEAR SAID, SOMEONE'S BEEN SITTING IN MY TELEPORTER AND HAS IT ALL JAMMED—
ARRRGH! OFF MY LAP, YOU UNWORTHY CHILD!
BABOO! WHEN THIS ELYA GETS HERE—
SHOULD HAVE WORN YOUR RUBBER APRON, SCOTTY! (HA! HA! HA!)
THE SOUND OF THE DOCTOR'S LAUGHTER FREEZES IN MID-AIR AS...
DOWN! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
THUD!
HEAR ME! I AM WENOMI, EMPEROR OF THE PLANET OORDON! LEAVE THE CHILDREN UNHARMED AND SURRENDER—OR YOU WILL DIE!
YES! AND MAKE IT FAST! IT IS ALMOST CHOCOLATE-MILK TIME!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON AND WE WILL MEET WITH YOU! REMEMBER, YOU CANNOT ATTACK US WITHOUT HARMING YOUR OWN WHO ARE HERE!
THE SELF-PROCLAIMED EMPEROR AND HIS GUARD FALL INTO WHISPERED CONFERENCE!
THE 'EMPEROR' IS NO MORE THAN A TEN-YEAR-OLD HIMSELF—BIG AS HE IS! ARE THERE NO ADULTS HERE?
A CITY WITHOUT ADULTS? PERHAPS AN ENTIRE WORLD? WHAT PARENTS WOULD ABANDON—HOLD IT! CONFERENCE IS BREAKING UP!
HEAR ME, INTRUDERS! I, EMPEROR WENOMI, PROMISE THAT IF YOU HAVE TRULY COME IN PEACE, YOU WILL LEAVE THE SAME WAY! BUT YOU MUST COME OUT WITH HANDS RAISED! THIS IS OUR FINAL WORD!
AND, A MOMENT LATER...
ARE WE REALLY DOIN' THIS? SURRENDERIN' TO A PAIR OF OVERGROWN BRATS?
IT'S THAT OR BLOODSHED—OURS AS WELL AS THEIRS!
HALT! YOU MOVE ANOTHER STEP AND—I HURT YOU! BAD!
EMPEROR WENOMI, WE COME FROM A FEDERATION—A GROUP OF PLANETS VERY FAR AWAY!

WE KNEW OF FAR OFF WORLDS, BUT NOT THAT THERE WERE MEN ON THEM!
OH, YES WE DID, WENOMI! REMEMBER?
"THE MAN IN THE SUN,.. HE HELPS US HAVE FUN... BUT IF WE COMPLAIN,.. HIS BROTHER MAKES RAIN!"
STOP THAT CHILDISHNESS, CAPTAIN BEDO! AND KEEP YOUR WEAPON AIMED! DO YOU WANT THEM TO MURDER US ALL?
WE CAN'T TRUST THEM! THEIR SMALL, SNAKE-LIKE EYES AND—
AWW, I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN, BUT I'VE HAD ALL I CAN TAKE FROM THIS MEWLING BRAT!
SNAKE-LIKE EYES, EH?
I'VE A NEPHEW IN GLASGOW WHO WAS ONCE AS ILL-MANNERED AS YOU! BUT DUE TO MY 'TREATMENTS', HE'S NOW AS FINE A LAD AS YOU'LL MEET!
WE'LL START WITH A 'DOSE' OF FIVE— HUH?
CLANK!

THAT WAS ONLY A WARNING! MY NEXT THROW WILL KILL! I ORDER YOU TO RELEASE THE EMPEROR! AND—
DO NOT MISTAKE ME! YOU ARE NOW DEALING WITH... GENERAL MACADOR!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS NO USE, EMPEROR WENOMI! WE CANNOT TRUST ANY INTRUDER! AND... EACH DAY-MORE SO!
Y-YOU WERE RIGHT, GENERAL! (SNIFF!) I THOUGHT I SHOULD TRY, BUT AS WE GET CLOSER TO V-DAY, WE GROW DEFENSELESS!
THE STRANGE CONFRONTATION PROMPTS A STREAM OF QUESTIONS FROM DR. McCOY!
WHAT IS V-DAY? AND IS THIS ALL A GAME... PLAYING AT SOLDIER AND STATESMAN?
HAVE YOU NO PARENTS? THE ONE CALLED ELYA! WHERE IS—
I AM... ELYA!
A VOICE LIKE A WELL PLAYED FLUTE, A GIANT BODY LIKE THE OTHERS, BUT THE BEARING OF A VERY BRAVE GIRL... THAT IS ELYA!
Y-YOU ARE THE GREAT PROVIDER? ANOTHER CHILD?
DID THEY HURT YOU WENOMI? DON'T CRY, ELYA IS HERE!
(SNIFF!) I DO NOT CRY, ELYA!

WE'VE HURT NOTHIN' BUT THE BOY'S PRIDE! NOW, TELL US, WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? **WE** ARE OUR PARENTS!
CAN YOU MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF THAT, MR. SPOCK?
I WILLINGLY CONFESS TO BEING AS PUZ-ZLED AS YOU, CAPTAIN!
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN? EXPLAIN IT!
BEDO, WE WILL NEED THE BOOK OF NOOAJA-BRING IT!
YES, LADY ELYA! BEDO WILL--
BEDO WILL DO NOTHING,-- **FOOL!**
WE CANNOT STAND TALKING WITH THE INTRUDERS WHEN EVERY MINUTE WE GROW WEAKER!
BRING THE **BOW OF MANY KNIVES!** THE INTRUDERS MUST DIE --WHILE WE ARE STILL ABLE TO FINISH THEM!
THE ***MANY KNIVES!*** I UNDERSTAND!


STAR TREK
WORLD AGAINST TIME
PART II: BACKWARD --TO THE FUTURE
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE 19:29:06, CONTINUED. On that strange planet populated only by children who play at war and power, we suddenly find ourselves facing a very real firing squad!
WAIT, BEDO, M'LAD! I'VE A MESSAGE FOR YOU—FROM THE MAN IN THE SUN!
KNIVES LOADED! KNIVES AIMED! KNIVES—
Y-YOU HAVE? FOR BEDO? REALLY?

YOU KNOW WE CAME FROM FAR OFF! ON OUR WAY WE PASSED NEAR THE SUN ——
AND THE MAN IN THE SUN, HE SPOKE OF BEDO?
DON'T LISTEN, BEDO! FIRE!
BUT SCOTTY CONTINUES TO DISTRACT BEDO,,,
THAT'S RIGHT! THE MAN IN THE SUN SAID, "BE SURE TO TELL MY GOOD FRIEND BEDO THAT--"
GIVE ME THE BOW, FOOL! I WILL FINISH THEM!
STOP! KILLING IS BAD, MACADOR! I'VE TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER!
SILENCE, GIRL! TWO MORE DAYS--THREE AT THE MOST--AND WE WILL BE HELPLESS! THEY MUST DIE NOW!
THE SECOND DISTRACTION IS ALL THAT CAPTAIN KIRK NEEDS!
THAT TOY IS TOO DANGEROUS, GENERAL, EVEN FOR A CHILD AS BIG AS—YOU! (HUHHHH!)
OOF!
NOW, WHAT DID ELYA MEAN—— YOU ARE YOUR OWN PARENTS?
IN A SENSE, IT IS SO! TEN DAYS AGO, WE WERE GROWN-UPS! FORTY DAYS AGO, MIDDLE-AGED!

YOU ARE— GROWING BACKWARD? DE-AGING?
EXACTLY!
NOW, BEDO! BRING US THE HOLY BOOK OF NOOAJA!
HAND STITCHED AND BOUND IN LUXURIANT LEATHER, THE GREAT BOOK IS OPENED BY WENOMI...
HERE IS THE HOLY NOOAJA!
A HUGE CAVE FILLED WITH GLOWING ROCKS! VISIBLE RADIO-ACTIVITY, LIKE RADIUM!
THIS IS THE GREAT SHARABA! HE GUARDS THE HOLY CAVE!
A HIGH PRIEST NO DOUBT!
193 DAYS AGO, THE EARTH TREMBLED! SOME BUILDINGS FELL! FEW DIED!
AN EARTH-QUAKE!
"FIFTY DAYS LATER, THE GREAT SHARABA CALLED UPON OUR EMPEROR!"
EMPEROR UZINA, I SHALL NOW REPEAT THREE THINGS YOU TOLD ME AS A BOY-- THINGS NO OTHER KNOWS!
OF COURSE, SINCE YOU ARE MY FAMILY, SHARABA, I CON-FESSED ALL TO YOU! BUT WHY REPEAT THEM?

"HE SPOKE THESE SECRET THINGS AND THEN REVEALED HIS CLOAKED FACE!"
I SPOKE THOSE THINGS TO PROVE I AM WHO I SAY!
BY THE HOLY NOOAJA! Y-YOU ARE GROWN YOUNG! YOUNGER THAN I! YOU **ARE** MY SHARABA!
AFTER THE EARTH TREMBLED, I INSPECTED THE HOLY VAULT! THE NOOAJA WAS MORE BRILLIANT THAN EVER!
I HAD TO COVER MY EYES TO PREVENT BLINDNESS! AND I RAN!
WITHIN A FEW DAYS, MY HANDS GREW UNWRINKLED—MY FACE AS WELL! A MIRACULOUS RETURN TO YOUTH, EH?
BUT ALSO—MY MEMORY OF MY OLDER DAYS—MY KNOWLEDGE—VANISHED WITH THEM! I AM GROWING BACKWARDS! **WITHOUT END!**
HOW DO I KNOW IT WILL NOT STOP? BECAUSE MY TWENTY-YEAR-OLD DOG WAS ALSO EXPOSED...
...IN TWENTY DAYS IT TURNED BACK TO A PUPPY! THEN--VANISHED INTO AIR!
"THEN HE TOOK OUR EMPEROR TO A MIRROR, AND..."
I **DO** LOOK YOUNGER! ONLY A LITTLE, BUT--
THE POWER OF THE NOOAJA REACHES OUT FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE! IT STRIPS AWAY ONE **YEAR** EVERY **DAY!** SOON **ALL** OF US WILL HAVE **VANISHED!**

IT HAPPENED AS HE FORETOLD! WITH EACH DAY, WE ALL GREW YOUNGER--AND FEWER! THE ONES YOU SEE HERE ARE ALL THAT ARE LEFT!
FANTASTIC! WENOMI, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I DON'T REMEMBER, OF COURSE, BECAUSE WE LOSE OUR MEMORY OF THE OLD DAYS!
BUT I CAN STILL READ AND THE RECORDS SAY I AM 152 YEARS OLD!
THE HOLY NOOAJA WILL NOT LET US ALL DIE! I STILL HAVE THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS! I BELIEVE IN NOOAJA!
AND WHEN WE ARE ALL GONE, GENERAL? WHAT GOOD IS A GOD WITHOUT BELIEVERS?
THERE IS A MOMENT OF SILENCE, THEN...
WE CAN SAVE YOU! COME AWAY WITH US, ALL OF YOU! START LIFE AGAIN--AWAY FROM THE RADIO-ACTIVE FORCE!
LEAVE THE WORLD OF OORDON? ABANDON THE HOME OF OUR FATHERS? NEVER SEE ANOTHER LANDU TREE OR HEAR ANOTHER POJI BIRD SING?
WENOMI IS RIGHT! HE WAS A POET, YOU KNOW--IN THE OTHER DAYS! WE WILL STAY! BUT--
--WE COULD SEND THE--CHILDREN! SOME HAVE ONLY A DAY LEFT!
HMMMM!

IT SEEMS THE EARTH-QUAKE EXPOSED A VAST NEW VEIN OF RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL CAUSING THIS 'PLAGUE'! THEREFORE--
WHY NOT MAKE THE EARTH RE-BURY IT, EH? DEPENDS ON WHAT CONDITION THE CAVE IS IN!
THE QUICKEST WAY TO FIND OUT IS FOR MR. SPOCK AND ME TO INSPECT THE CAVE!
SURE! BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT MY EL-BOW FIRST!
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, A SMALL WART APPEARED HERE! IT WAS THERE LAST NIGHT! IT'S GONE NOW!
THEN WE'VE BEGUN DE-AGING TOO! WE'VE LOST AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN A MATTER OF HOURS!
AND THE CLOSER YOU GET TO THOSE 'HOT' ROCKS, THE FASTER YOU'LL DE-AGE!
YOU COULD VANISH BEFORE YOU EVEN REACH THEM!
WE'RE DEALING WITH SOME KIND OF R-A POISONING! OUR MEDICAL COMPUTOR KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT! IN A FEW DAYS AN ANTIDOTE!
NO! IN A FEW DAYS THE CHILDREN WILL VANISH!

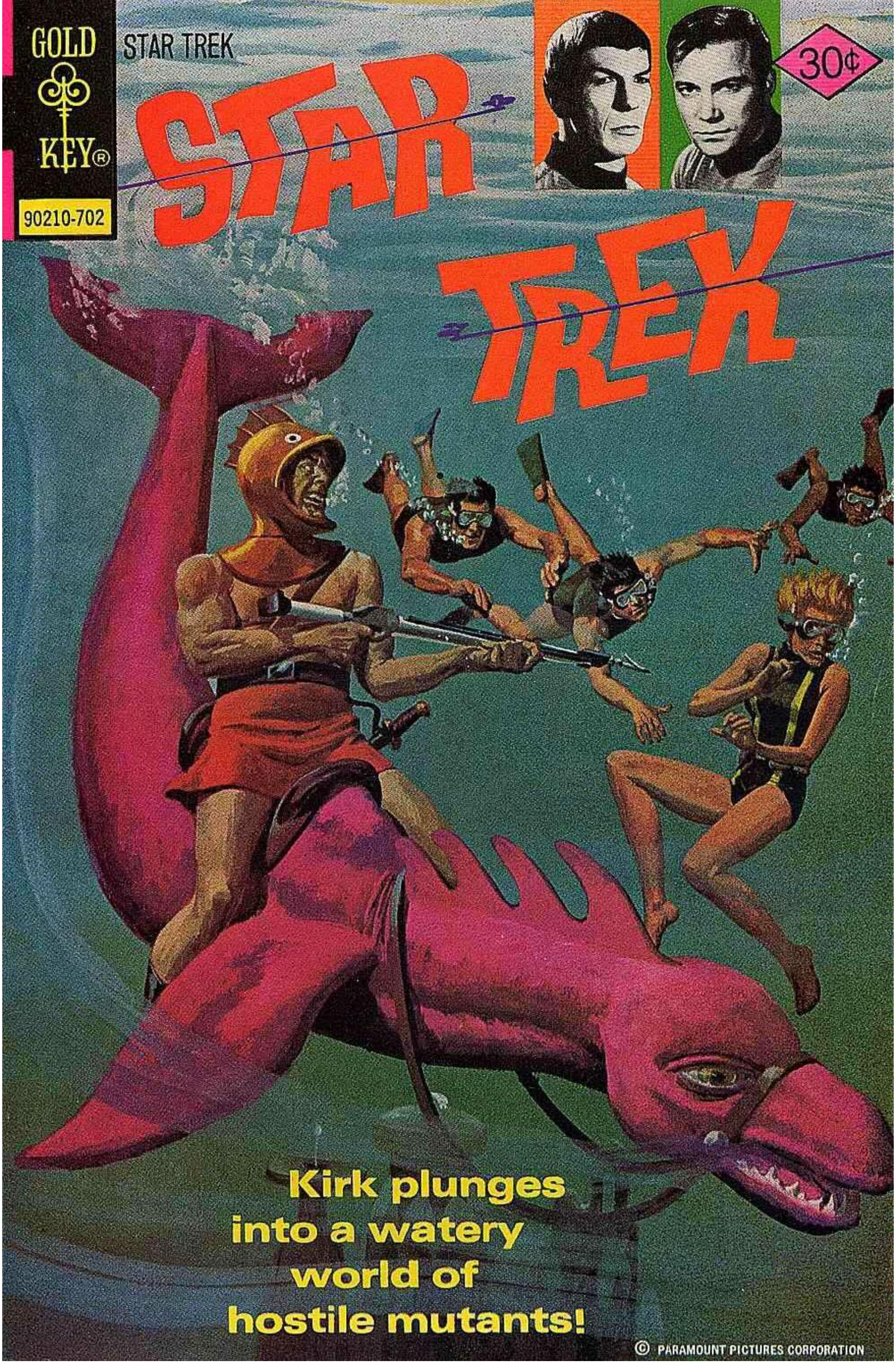
THAT DOES IT! THAT 'UNGRATEFUL' BRAT WHO CLIMBED INTO MY LAP-- I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM VANISH!
THEN IT'S SETTLED, MR. SCOTT! YOU AND I ARE IN A RACE AGAINST OUR OWN CHILDHOOD!
A MAP OF THE ROUTE TO THE HOLY CAVE IS FOUND AND THEN...
STOP! YOU MUST NOT ATTACK THE HOLY NOOAJA!
AHH! YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE PUT THAT BOW DOWN, CAPTAIN!
LET THEM GO, GENERAL! I, YOUR EMPEROR, COMMAND IT!
WHACK!
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! YOU'RE NAUGHTY! VERY NAUGHTY! YOU ONLY KNOW VIOLENCE!
ARRGHH! YOU'VE JOINED THEM—THE ANTI-NOOAJA!
BUT YOU WON'T DESTROY THE HOLY CAVE! I WON'T LET YOU!
MACADOR! COME BACK! (SOB!)
HE WILL! SMALL BOYS ALWAYS DO--WHEN IT GETS DARK!

THEN, AS MR. SPOCK AND SCOTTY START FOR THE DEADLY CAVE...
I'M GOING BACK TO THE SHIP TO WORK ON AN ANTIDOTE!
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WHAT WE DON'T HAVE IS TIME!
LATER, AT THE APPROACH TO THE HOLY CAVE...
IMAGINE ANYBODY WORSHIPPIN' A HANDFUL OF 'HOT' ROCKS!
ONE MAN'S FAITH IS ANOTHER MAN'S FOLLY, MR. SCOTT!
AS THEY PASS THROUGH THE GREAT ENTRANCE...
TAKE COVER, MR. SPOCK!
STAY AWAY! YOU WILL NOT VIOLATE THE SACRED CAVE! BE GONE OR I WILL KILL YOU! I-I-I MEAN IT, YOU NASTY MEN!
AMAZIN'! HE'S ALMOST HALF HIS SIZE NOW! BEIN' THIS CLOSE TO THE RADIO-ACTIVITY IS SPEEDIN' UP THE PROCESS!
COME DOWN, BOY! YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE--BEFORE YOU VANISH!

THEN, AS THE FRENZIED BOY DASHES DEEP INTO THE CAVE...
WE MUST STOP HIM! THE REGRESSION EFFECT GROWS FASTER WITH EVERY SECOND!
BAD MANS MUSTN'T TOUCH NOOAJA! ME SAVE NOOAJA!
MOMENTS LATER...
ONLY HIS CLOTHES ARE LEFT! MACADOR HAS-- VANISHED!
AYE! AND MR. SPOCK-- WOULD YE LOOK AT MY FACE!
FASCINATING! Y-YOU'RE A TEEN-AGED YOUTH!
AND SO ARE YOU! WE SHOULD BOTH BE SINGIN' OUR HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATERS!
HURRY, MAN, OR WE'LL BE TOO SMALL TO FINISH THE JOB!
WORSE! I DIDN'T BRING MY TEDDY BEAR!

THERE IT IS! NOT A SECOND TO LOSE! WE'RE GETTING THE FULL FORCE OF ITS RAYS NOW! A **FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH** THAT WILL 'DROWN' US!
AYE! AND LOOK AT THAT CONVENIENT ROCK SHELF LEFT BY THE QUAKE! A PERFECT SPOT TO PLANT A FEW BETA CHARGES!
LIFT ME HIGHER, MR. SCOTT! **HIGHER!** AND HURRY!
WITH THE CHARGES IN PLACE, THE NEO-YOUTHS DASH FOR SAFETY!
I USED A TWELVE SECOND TIMER!
TWELVE? AND DID YOU FORGET WE'D BE MAKIN' OUR EXIT ON THE SHORT LEGS OF SIX YEAR OLDS?

...BARAM!
BAM!
KABOOM!
WE'VE THOPPED IT, MR. SPOCK! WE THOPPED THE NAUGHTY WOCKS!
YETH, BUT WE ARE LITTLE BOYS NOW! AND WHO KNOWS HOW LONG WE WILL BE?
NOT VERY LONG, CHILDREN! THE MEDI-COMPUTER GAVE US THE ANSWER INSTANTLY!
AHH, GOOD OL' DR. McCOY! JUST IN TIME!
SO, IT'S "DR. McCOY" NOW, IS IT? NO MORE "BONES"! ALL RIGHT, WE'VE GOT TO INJECT THE ANTIDOTE!
A DROP AT A TIME-- OTHERWISE WE COULD LOSE CONTROL AND YOU'D WIND UP YOUR OWN GRANDPA!
LATER,,,
YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT US TO INJECT YOU, TOO, ELYA?
NO, WE'LL GROW UP NATURALLY, NOW! IT'S BETTER FOR US TO GRADUALLY LEARN HOW TO BUILD OUR WORLD AGAIN!
YOU ARE VERY WISE FOR A 'CHILD', ELYA! GOOD LUCK!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Kirk plunges into a watery world of hostile mutants!
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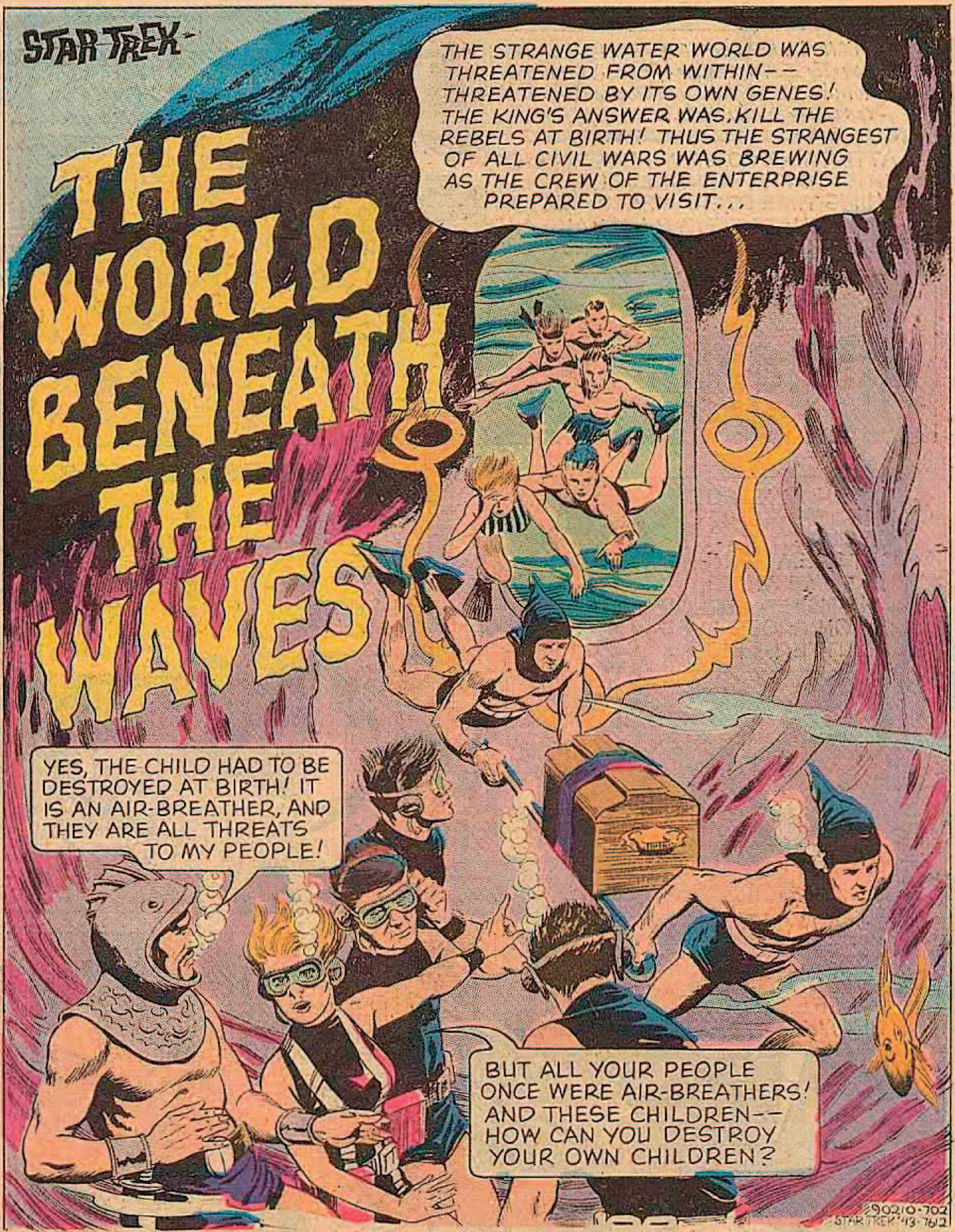

STAR TREK, No. 43, February, 1977. Published monthly except April, June, October, and December, by Western Publishing Company, Inc., North Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A.
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CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE, 19:26:03... Priority 2-A message from Starship Command HQ has interrupted previous schedule...
ATTENTION, COMMANDER STARSHIP ENTERPRISE. RENDEZVOUS, YOUR SHIP'S TIME 07:30 SPACE SECTOR COORDINATES J-17, R-41! TAKE ON TECHNICAL ADVISER AND NEW ASSIGNMENT. END.
WHAT TECHNICAL ADVISER, MON?
HAVEN'T WE GOT ENOUGH SCI-TECHS OF OUR OWN WITHOUT THEM SENDING US SOME WHITE WHISKERED AUTHORITY ON CROSS-EYED BUTTERFLIES?
"OURS NOT TO REASON WHY--" TO PARAPHRASE A 19TH CENTURY EARTH POET --ONE, KIPLING!
AYE! IT WOULD BE A BARD FROM ONE OF THEM DARK CENTURIES--19TH OR 20TH! THEY WERE ABOUT AS REASONING AS MONKEYS!
WE'VE SURVIVED WORSE THAN THIS, SCOTTY! ON TO THE RENDEZVOUS! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME TO SPARE!
SOON AFTER...
AYE, AND HERE COMES HERR PROFESSOR BORINGLECTURE!
LET'S GREET HIM WITH A ROUSING--SNORE!
GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN! I HOPE I'M NOT LATE FOR BREAKFAST! HYPER-SPACE TRAVEL ALWAYS LEAVES ME STARVED!
WHISTLE!
A VERY CURIOUS SNORE, MR. SCOTT!

BABS! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL YOUR OLD DAD YOU WERE JOINING US?
IT WASN'T REALLY MY IDEA, FATHER! SUPREME COUNCILOR THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AMUSING TO SURPRISE YOU! I'M NOT SURE I AGREE!
YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT SUGGESTED A XENO-BIOLOGIST! A SPECIALIST IN EXTRA SOLAR LIFE!
I KNOW YOUR SCIENTIFIC CREDENTIALS, DR. M'COY--BARBARA--BUT WE HAVE THREE SPECIALISTS IN X-BIO WITH US!
I DELIVERED A PAPER RECENTLY ON THE ADAPTABILITY OF INTELLIGENT LIFE TO SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE!
THESE NEW ORDERS WILL EXPLAIN WHY I WAS RECOMMENDED TO ACCOMPANY YOU!
WE ARE GOING TO ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL SPOTS IN THE EXPLORED UNIVERSE! THE PLANET BWUJA. I PREPARED THIS MENTA-PIX WITH A BRIEF BWUJAN HISTORY!
RIGHT! YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK, DOCTOR! I'LL SCAN IT AT ONCE!
LATER, IN BARBARA'S QUARTERS...
WHAT A BREAK THIS IS--NOW WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
THERE WERE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PAST, FATHER! YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM, HOWEVER!

I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER FOR THIS JOB! AND I HAVEN'T COME HUNTING YOU DOWN FOR THE CHILDHOOD I NEVER HAD!
WE'VE BEEN OVER THAT MANY TIMES, BARBARA! YOUR MOTHER COULDN'T STAND A STARSHIP LIFE AND YOU COULD BE WITH ONLY ONE OF US!
SAVE YOUR EXPLANATIONS! THEY'RE TEN YEARS TOO LATE! I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS --DEAR FATHER!
YOU'VE GOT A BITTER STREAK IN YOU, BARBARA! AND YOU DIDN'T GET IT FROM YOUR SWEET MOTHER. YOU CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR IT!
A QUICK WORD WITH YOU BOTH! BONES HERE HAS BEEN MY MED-OFF AND CLOSE FRIEND FOR YEARS! AND IN THE BRIEF TIME I'VE KNOWN YOU I'VE BECOME VERY FOND OF YOU, BARBARA, BUT—
-- MY FIRST DUTY IS TO THIS SHIP AND ALL ITS PERSONNEL! I WON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY WARS SPILLING OVER INTO GENERAL TENSION!
LIFE ON A STARSHIP IS CONFINING ENOUGH WITHOUT THAT ADDED HEAT! YOU'LL HANDLE THIS BETTER OR I'LL REMOVE ONE OF YOU!
COMMAND A AND C ACKNOWLEDGED AND COMPLIED WITH!
GOOD! COME ON, BONES! LET'S PUT ON THE MENTA-PIX SENSOR AND LEARN BWUJAN HISTORY! NOTHING LIKE FORGETTING YOUR OWN TROUBLES BY STUDYING SOMEONE ELSE'S!

SHE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW, KIRK! IF I HADN'T BEEN OUT HERE CHASING GLORY--
CHASING GLORY? YOU SOUND LIKE A STARFLEET RECRUITING PAMPHLET!
I SHARED THAT 'GLORY' WITH YOU-- LONELINESS, MISERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND AN ETERNITY OF--BOREDOM!
YOU MADE JUST ONE SMALL MISTAKE, BONES! YOU SKIPPED OVER PARA-28, SUB-PARA-G IN THE DUTIES HANDBOOK..."THE LONG AND DISORIENTING TOURS OF SF DUTY RECOMMEND NO LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS!"
HERE COMES THE HISTORY LESSON! BRAINS OPEN, CLASS!
SWIFTLY, THE MENTA-PIX FLOOD THEIR MINDS-- IN COLOR, 3-D, SOUND, SMELL AND TASTE!
ONE-THIRD OF PLANET BWUJA LIES BENEATH WATER. THIS IS LESS THAN THE WATER-LAND RATIO OF PLANET EARTH, BUT WITH ONE GREAT DIFFERENCE...
...THE POPULATION OF BWUJA IS ALSO SUBMERGED!
7,000 YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, THE BWUJANS WERE A SURFACE PEOPLE. SCIENTIFICALLY PRIMITIVE, BUT HIGHLY CULTURED!
FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES ITS PRIESTS--WHO WERE ALSO THE DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS-- STUDIED AN APPROACHING HEAVENLY PHENOMENON.

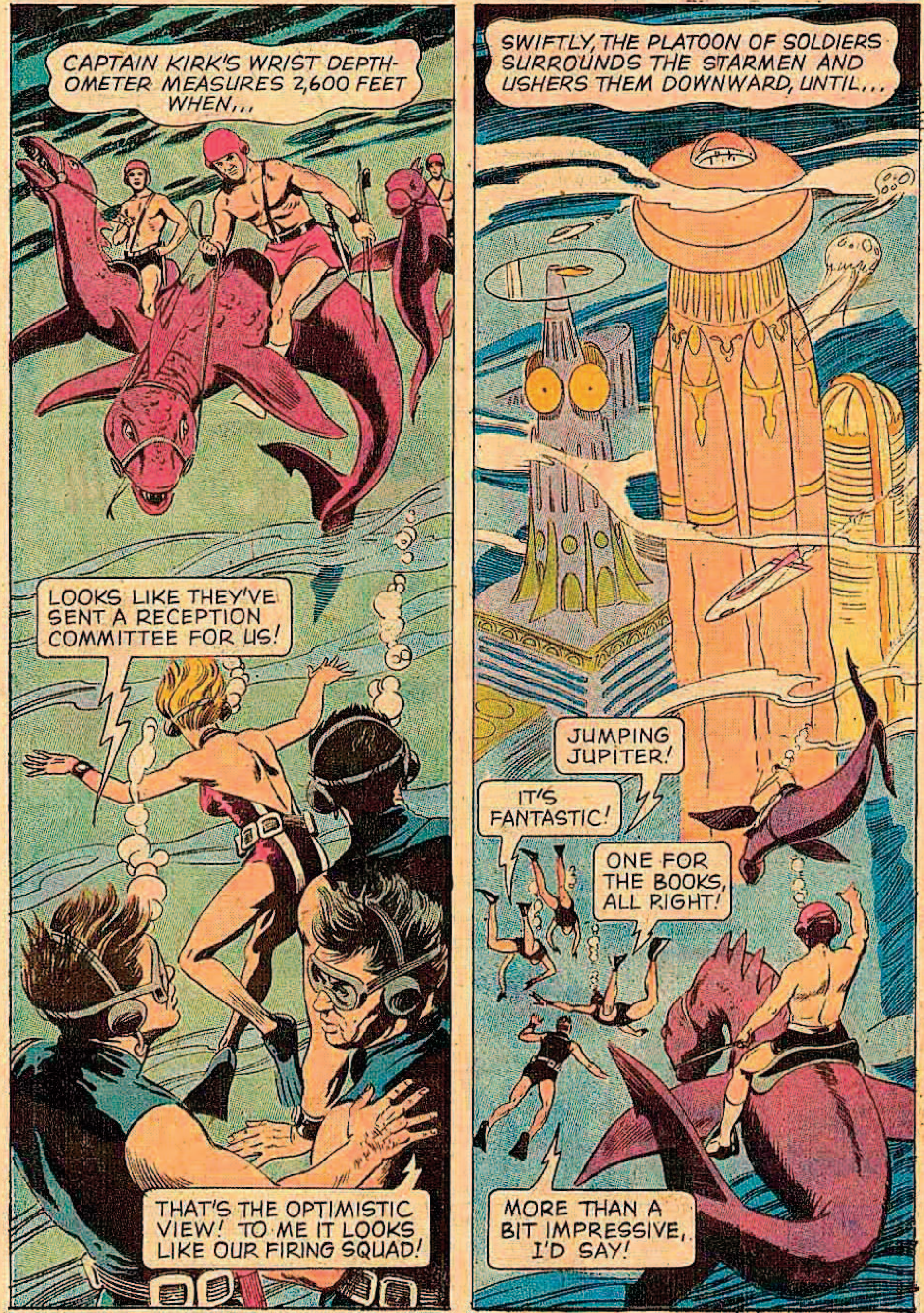
WHAT THEY SAW, WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, WAS THE REMAINS OF A SUPERNOVA --A GIANT STAR THAT HAD EXPLODED MILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE, BUT...
...WHOSE RADIO-ACTIVE DUST WAS STILL ABLE TO INCINERATE ANYTHING IT TOUCHED! AND IT WAS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH BWUJA!
THEY CONCLUDED THAT, IN SOME THREE CENTURIES, THEY WOULD BE BRUSHED BY THAT 'FIRE CLOUD' AND ALL SURFACE CIVILIZATION WOULD BE DESTROYED!
THE ONLY FIRE BARRIER THEY KNEW OF WAS--WATER! BUT HOW COULD AIR-BREATHERS LIVE BENEATH WATER?
ONE OF THEIR HIGHEST PRIESTS, AND SURGEONS, SAID HE BELIEVED THEY COULD LEARN TO COPY THE GILLS OF SOME AMPHIBIAN CREATURE.
YOU SEE, GREAT AMU, IN TIME WE COULD SEW SUCH A DEVICE INTO OUR OWN WINDPIPES AND BECOME WATER-BREATHERS!
HOW MUCH TIME?
THE ANSWER WAS--NEARLY TWO CENTURIES! USING PRISONERS AS 'VOLUNTEERS', THEY INSERTED COUNTLESS MECHANICAL GILLS. NOBODY KEPT SCORE OF THE NUMBER OF LIVES LOST! BUT, IN TIME, THE TRANSPLANTS SUCCEEDED!

EQUIPPED TO BREATHE WATER, THEY SET ABOUT BUILDING THE UNDER SEA HOME THEY WOULD SOON BE FORCED TO OCCUPY!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREATER TASK THAN THE BUILDING OF THE PYRAMIDS!
PROBABLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION ACTUALLY ESCAPED IN TIME. THE CALAMITY TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE WAS TOTAL!
EVEN THE OCEANS BOILED AND STEAMED!
BUT THEY CHOSE THE DEEPEST SUB-OCEAN TRENCHES FOR THIS 'HOT' AGE AND THEY DWELT IN GREAT NATURAL CAVES!

IN TIME, THE SURFACE COOLED. BUT THOSE SENT TO INSPECT THE SURFACE NEVER RETURNED--OR DID AS NEAR SKELETONS!
THE PRIESTS, IGNORANT OF RADIO-ACTIVITY, CONCLUDED THAT THE GODS HAD DAMNED THE SURFACE--FOREVER!
THEY LIVED THAT WAY FOR 1500 YEARS--SLAVES TO THE GILL TRANSPLANT! THEN ONE DAY A 'FREAK' WAS BORN!
A CHILD THAT WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE STARRED IN SOME CARNIVAL SIDESHOW! A CHILD WITH NATURAL GILLS! ADAPTATION HAD BEGUN!
FORTUNATELY, THE 'FREAK' CHARACTERISTIC PROVED DOMINANT! MARRIAGE BETWEEN NORMALS AND FREAKS ALWAYS PRODUCED--FREAKS!
SOME EVEN WHISPER THAT THE WATER-BREATHERS EVENTUALLY KILLED OFF THE ORIGINAL POPULATION! THERE IS NO PROOF OF THAT!
THOUGH THE SURFACE IS NOW FREE OF RADIO-ACTIVITY, THE BWUJANS HAVE NO CURIOSITY... IN FACT, THEY FEAR THE SURFACE!
OUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO STUDY THIS AMAZING PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FASTEST COMPLETE-PHYSIO-ADAPTATION KNOWN!

THEN, AS THE MENTA-PIX COMES TO AN END...
FASCINATING! I'M INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW THE NEW CULTURE DEVELOPED! WHEN DO WE BEAM DOWN?
THAT'S UP TO YOUR DAUGHTER! MY ORDERS PLACE HER IN COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION THE MOMENT WE LEAVE THE SHIP!
MEANWHILE...
MIND IF I PASS THE TIME OF DAY WITH YOU, MS McCOY
NOT AT ALL-- SO LONG AS YOU HAVEN'T COME TO TALK ABOUT MY FATHER!
LOOK HERE, YOUR DAD AND I HAVE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES OVER THE YEARS... NOISY ONES, TOO. BUT I TELL YOU--HE'S A DECENT MAN!
WELL SAID, MR. SCOTT! IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU APPLY FOR THE JOB AS HIS DAUGHTER! IT'S VACANT, YOU KNOW!
I'D RATHER BE YOUR DAD FOR TWO MINUTES. I'D TAKE YOU ACROSS MY KNEE AND—
I'M SURE YOU WOULD! INCIDENTALLY, IF THIS FATHER TALK WAS AN INDIRECT WAY OF MAKING A PASS AT ME-- TRY SOMETHING SIMPLER NEXT TIME!
SOON, AS THE EXPEDITION PREPARES TO BEAM DOWN...
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. SCOTT! SINCE ONE SENIOR OFFICER MUST REMAIN BEHIND, I'VE CHOSEN YOU!
CAPTAIN! (SPUTTER!) HAS SHE GOT THE POWER TO--
SHE HAS!

AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE EXPEDITION BEAMS DOWN TO THE GHOSTLY PLANET...
HERE IT IS! JUST AS THAT COSMIC CATASTROPHE LEFT IT, 7,000 YEARS AGO!
YES! AND THERE IS THE OCEAN, THEIR NEW HOME! I WONDER WHAT AWAITS US THERE?
HERE ARE YOUR COMPOX CAPSULES, BARBARA! EACH HAS ENOUGH COMPRESSED OXYGEN TO LET YOU LIVE UNDER WATER FOR 24 HOURS! SWALLOW ONE NOW!
THANK YOU, DOCTOR! I'M WELL ACQUAINTED WITH COMPOX! I SPENT THREE WEEKS UNDER WATER TO TRAIN FOR THIS!
THE FOUR FIGURES SWIM DOWN INTO THE DARK WATERY WORLD NOT KNOWING WHAT STRANGE DESTINY LIES BEFORE THEM!
AND MORE THAN ONE OF THEM HAS THE EERIE SENSATION THAT THEIR EVERY MOVE IS BEING WATCHED!



CAPTAIN KIRK'S WRIST DEPTH-OMETER MEASURES 2,600 FEET WHEN...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SENT A RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR US!
THAT'S THE OPTIMISTIC VIEW! TO ME IT LOOKS LIKE OUR FIRING SQUAD!
SWIFTLY, THE PLATOON OF SOLDIERS SURROUNDS THE STARMEN AND USHERS THEM DOWNWARD, UNTIL...
JUMPING JUPITER!
IT'S FANTASTIC!
ONE FOR THE BOOKS, ALL RIGHT!
MORE THAN A BIT IMPRESSIVE, I'D SAY!

WHAT AWAITS THE ENTERPRISE TEAM IS AN AUDIENCE WITH--ROYALTY! HIS SUPREME MAJESTY, KING RAAN XIV AND HIS QUEEN, SAYA!
SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH, AIR BREATHERS! WHY HAVE YOU INVADED OUR WORLD?
TELEPATHY FOR UNDERWATER COMMUNICATION! ANOTHER NATURAL ADAPTATION!
WE COME TO LEARN FROM YOU --AND TO OFFER OUR FRIENDSHIP!
IT WAS THE AIR BREATHERS OF OUR OWN WORLD WHO MADE THE GODS ANGRY AND DESTROYED OUR SURFACE LAND!
WE DO NOT **KNOW** THAT, MY KING! ONLY WHAT THE PRIESTS TELL US!
NO! THE SURFACE WAS DESTROYED BY A COSMIC CATASTROPHE, NOT THE GODS!
SILENCE! WOMAN! UNLESS YOU WOULD DIE--**NOW!**
LEAVE HER ALONE!
PUT THEM IN AIR CELL NO. 4! THEY WILL BE TRIED AND EXECUTED IN TWO DAYS!
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE VERDICT, EH, KING RAAN?

STAR TREK
WORLD BENEATH THE WAVES
PART II UNTO THE QUEEN A CHILD IS BORN
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE 30-21-4. Captives of the underwater world we had come to study, our march to imprisonment is interrupted by a sombre sight!
A FUNERAL PROCESSION!
IT MUST BE A BABY--THE CASKET IS SO SMALL!
AND THE NEXT FUNERAL AROUND THESE PARTS WILL BE--OURS!
THEY ARE MARCHED INTO A STONE CUBICLE WHERE...
THEY'RE LOCKING US IN HERE! THIS IS OUR TOMB!
NO! I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THAT IN MIND! OTHERWISE WE'D DIE MORE PUBLICLY!
A MOMENT LATER, A THROBBING SOUND...
CHUM CHUM CHUM
LISTEN! SOME KIND OF CRUDE PUMP! REMOVING THE WATER!
YES! LIKE A SUB-MARINE AIR-LOCK!

MOMENTS LATER...
A SECOND DOOR --AND BEHIND IT, A LARGER ROCK CHAMBER!
LOOK UP THERE, CAPTAIN! MY GUESS IS THAT HOLE IS A NATURAL VENTILATOR, GOING STRAIGHT TO THE SURFACE! THAT'S WHY THIS IS CALLED AN "AIR CELL"!
BUT WHAT DO THEY USE IT FOR IN A WORLD WITHOUT AIR-BREATHERS?
SIMPLE! IF WE WERE WATER BREATHERS, PLACING US HERE WOULD KILL US! I THINK IT'S AN EXECUTION CHAMBER--FOR THEIR OWN!
TAP TAP TAP
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
SHHH! I'VE HEARD IT FOR SOME SECONDS NOW!
RHYTHMIC PATTERN! INTELLIGENT LIFE DOING THAT!
QUICKLY THEY SET TO WORK CREATING A HOLE IN THE WALL!
WHAT DO YOU SEE, CAPTAIN? IS SOMEONE IN THERE?
A WHOLE LOT OF SOMEONES, MR. SPOCK!
AS THEIR LINGUA-DISCS PERFORM INSTANT TRANSLATION...
REMUTATIONS, CAPTAIN! ABNORMAL BIRTHS AMONG THE WATER BREATHERS, PRODUCING DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL SURFACE PEOPLE!
I AM LOJO! ONE OUT OF MANY THOUSANDS BORN IS--LIKE US! THE PRIESTS SAY WE MUST DIE AT BIRTH! BUT--

--THE KING DOES NOT KILL US! HE SENDS US HERE SECRETLY AS BABIES!
HE THINKS HE IS KIND, BUT I WOULD RATHER HAVE DIED THAN LIVE MY LIFE IN THIS HOLE! THE CLIMBERS WERE RIGHT!
CLIMBERS?
MANY HAVE TRIED TO REACH THE SURFACE BY CLIMBING! MOST TURNED BACK WHEN THEY CAME TO THE CAVE OF THE AGAARAS! THE OTHERS WERE DESTROYED!
WHAT IS THE AGAARA?
TERRIBLE BEAST! CREATED BY THE HAVOC THAT DESTROYED THE SURFACE LAND!
SOME VICIOUS ATOMIC MUTANT! WE MUST--
--FACE THEM, CAPTAIN!
RIGHT! WE'LL TAKE OUR CHANCES ON THE ROUTE OF--THE CLIMBERS!
CAPTAIN! LOOK THERE!
THE BABY WE SAW BEING--'BURIED'! SO THE KING IS STILL PRETENDING TO KILL THEM! WHY?
I HAVE A THEORY! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, BUT FIRST WE COULD USE A REST BEFORE OUR CLIMB!

LATER, AS THE LONG CLIMB BEGINS...
--SO THE KING SHARES HIS POWER WITH THE PRIESTS! AND THE PRIESTS SAY ALL AIR-BREATHERS ARE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL...AND MUST DIE!
I THINK I LEARNED ANOTHER REASON WHY HE SPARES THE BABIES!
LOJO TOLD ME THE KING AND QUEEN LOST THEIR ONLY CHILD BEFORE IT WAS BORN! SHE CAN'T BEAR ANY OTHERS!
TOO BAD! HE'D HAVE MADE A GOOD FATHER!
NOT LIKE SOME MEN YOU KNOW, EH, BARBARA?
THEN AS THE SHAFT OPENS INTO A GREAT ROCK CHAMBER...
LOOK AT THAT-- THING!
EEYAAAA
AGAARRRAAAA!
NOW WE KNOW WHERE THE AGAARA GETS ITS NAME!

THEN, AS KIRK DIALS "MAXIMUM DESTRUCT" ON HIS PHASER...
AGAARA
TAKE COVER! I'VE SET MY PHASER FOR MAX-D!
CLOSE, AGAARA! BUT YOU WIN NO CIGAR!
KAWOOM
IT DIDN'T HARM A SCALE ON ITS BODY! THAT THING MUST BE MADE OF OBDURIUM--OR BETTER!
AGAARRAA
COMING S-STRAIGHT AT--ME!
ALL RIGHT, YOU HORN-HEADED SON OF AN A-BOMB! HARR! COME AND GET ME! HARRR!
LET HER GO AND GIVE SOMEBODY ELSE A CHANCE! HARRRR!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

AS IF REACTING TO A COMMAND, THE MUTANT BEAST DROPS BARBARA...
AGAARRA
BACK! GET BACK, YOU LIVING NIGHTMARE!
SUDDENLY...
CRASH!
WHAT IN THE--?
THAT MAX-D SHOT DID KILL IT! BUT SOMETHING HELD IT TOGETHER FOR MINUTES AFTER THE IMPACT!
SOME FANTASTIC CELLULAR BOND THAT OUR BIOCHEMISTS WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH!
THEN, AS THEY START BACK TOWARD THE MAIN SHAFT...
I'M AFRAID THAT THE BEAST CRUMBLING WHEN IT DID OBSCURED THE SACRIFICE YOUR FATHER WAS ABOUT TO MAKE!
NOT QUITE, CAPTAIN.
AND, AS THEY REACH THE SURFACE...
AHH! THAT'S BETTER!
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO SEE ANOTHER OCEAN FOR--YEARS!

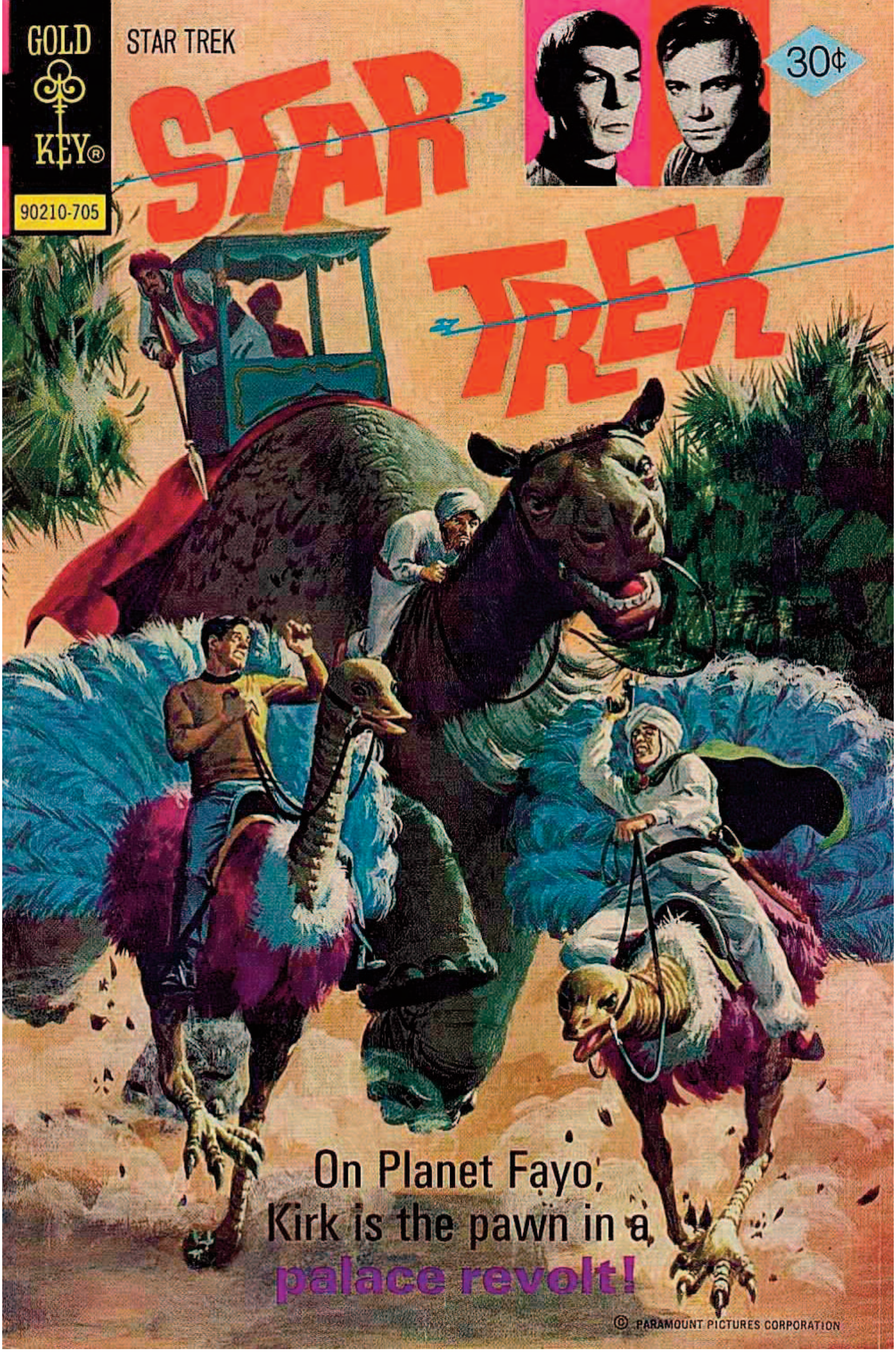
I THINK WE'VE STUDIED ENOUGH OF THIS IN-HOSPITABLE PLANET, FRIENDS!
HOLD IT, BONES! I SAW SOME-THING MOVE BEHIND YOU!
SWIFTLY, KIRK SCRAMBLES BEHIND A GREAT BOULDER...
OWWW! LET GO! LET GO!
SO! SOME OF THE AIR-BREATHERS MADE IT TO THE SUR-FACE AFTER ALL!
HE WAS NO CLIMBER, CAPTAIN! TOO YOUNG FOR THAT!
THEN HOW DID HE GET HERE? UNLESS HE WAS--BORN HERE!
YES, I AM A TRUE SURFACE CHILD! MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE CLIMBERS! BUT I WAS BORN HERE!
TAKE US TO THEM!
THEY ARE WITH OUR LEADER--THE MIGHTY DORO! Y-YOU WILL NOT HARM THEM?
YOU HAVE OUR WORD--AS FELLOW AIR-BREATHERS!

SHORTLY, WITH SPOCK LEFT TO GUARD THE ENTRANCE TO A GREAT CAVE...
FATHER! MOTHER! I BRING NEW AIR-BREATHERS!
SEE, MIGHTY DORO--THEY ARE FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
WELL-- I'LL BE A--
IS THERE ANOTHER WORLD?
THE-- MIGHTY-- DORO--
--A CHILD OF THREE OR FOUR!
QUICKLY, CAPTAIN KIRK TELLS OF THEIR EXPERIENCE TO TAKO THE BOY'S FATHER...
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE ON THE SURFACE NOW?
58! FIVE YEARS AGO THERE WERE ONLY 11. MORE CLIMBERS COME EACH YEAR--AND 14 ARE SURFACE-BORN!
WHY NOT SEND AN EXPEDITION DOWN TO LEAD ALL YOUR PEOPLE BACK UP?
NO! IF WE FAILED AND THE KING LEARNED OF IT, HE WOULD SEND TROOPS TO THE SURFACE TO KILL US ALL!
YET THERE MUST BE A WAY THAT YOU TWO PEOPLE--OF COMMON ANCESTORS-CAN LIVE TOGETHER!
LISTEN!
CAPTAIN! QUICKLY! HELP!

IN RESPONSE TO MR. SPOCK'S CRY, KIRK RUSHES OUTSIDE AND...
WHA—? HE'S NOT--WHERE ARE YOU MR. SPOCK?
HE IS RIGHT HERE, AIR BREATHER!
MY PRIESTS WARNED ME THAT AIR-BREATHERS MIGHT SOME DAY REACH THE SURFACE AND DESTROY OUR WORLD BENEATH THE BEAUTIFUL SEA!
BUT I DID NOT BELIEVE THEM!
I WAS SOFT! I LET THE AIR-BABIES LIVE! NOW THEY BUILD A WORLD HERE AS THE PRIESTS WARNED! BUT THEY WILL NOT DESTROY ME!
HIS DISCOVERY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD, CAPTAIN! SHOOT! NEVER MIND ME!
I-I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE, MR. SPOCK!
GOOD, CAPTAIN! I MEAN YOU NO HARM, BUT THE KING OF THE AIR-PEOPLE MUST DIE!
SUCH A PRETTY KNIFE! CAN DORO HAVE PRETTY KNIFE?
A-A CHILD?

CHILD OR NOT-- HE MUST DIE!
EVEN IF IT IS OUR CHILD, RAAN?
OUR CHILD? B-BUT OUR CHILD DID NOT LIVE!
NO! THERE WAS A SON! BUT HE WAS AN AIR-BREATHER! I KNEW YOU WOULD HAVE HIM KILLED-- LIKE THE OTHERS! SO I LEFT HIM UP HERE!
SO THAT IS IT! WE FOUND THE BABY ON THE SHORE! IT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE MOST DISCOURAGED.
WE TOOK IT AS A SIGN OF HOPE --AND REARED HIM AS OUR LEADER!
BUT YOUR HUSBAND ONLY PRETENDED TO HAVE THE AIR-BABIES KILLED!
IT IS TRUE! AND IF I HAD SHARED MY SECRET WITH YOU, SAYA, THE BOY COULD HAVE BEEN WITH US ALL ALONG!
BUT THE BOY CAN'T LIVE DOWN THERE WITH YOU!
HE MUST! HE WILL LIVE IN THE AIR CAVES, CLOSE TO US!
WAIT, KING RAAN! LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING!

TAKO LEADS KING RAAN TO A NEARBY LAGOON...
THIS IS OUR SECOND CHILD! YOU SEE, AN AIR-BREATHER WAS BORN TO YOU--AND A WATER-BREATHER TO US!
INCREDIBLE! WILL THERE ALWAYS BE THESE--ACCIDENTS?
PROBABLY! REMEMBER, YOUR WHOLE UNDERWATER PEOPLE WERE AN 'ACCIDENT'! TAKE THIS CHILD WITH YOU AND RAISE IT AS YOUR OWN, IF TAKO AND HIS WIFE AGREE--
YES! IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO PART WITH HER--BUT SHE WILL BE WHERE SHE BELONGS!
AND OUR CHILD WILL BE WITH YOU! EACH WILL BE A LEADER AND WE WILL BE ONE PEOPLE--ABOVE AND BELOW THE WAVES!
LATER, BACK ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
THEY'VE BEEN HUDDLED LIKE THAT SINCE WE GOT BACK!
YES, THEY HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT! PERHAPS THAT STRANGE FAMILY SCENE THEY JUST WITNESSED AFFECTED THEM BOTH!
THEY COULDN'T MAKE ME KING OF A WATER WORLD! CAN'T STAND LIVIN' IN WET BATHING SUITS! BESIDES, THEY'D EXPECT ME TO DRINK THE STUFF!
THIS IS ALMOST AMUSING, COMING FROM A MAN WHO POSITIVELY LOVES LIVING IN THE SAHARA HEAT OF A NUCLEAR ENGINE ROOM!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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STAR TREK
On Planet Fayo, Kirk is the pawn in a palace revolt!
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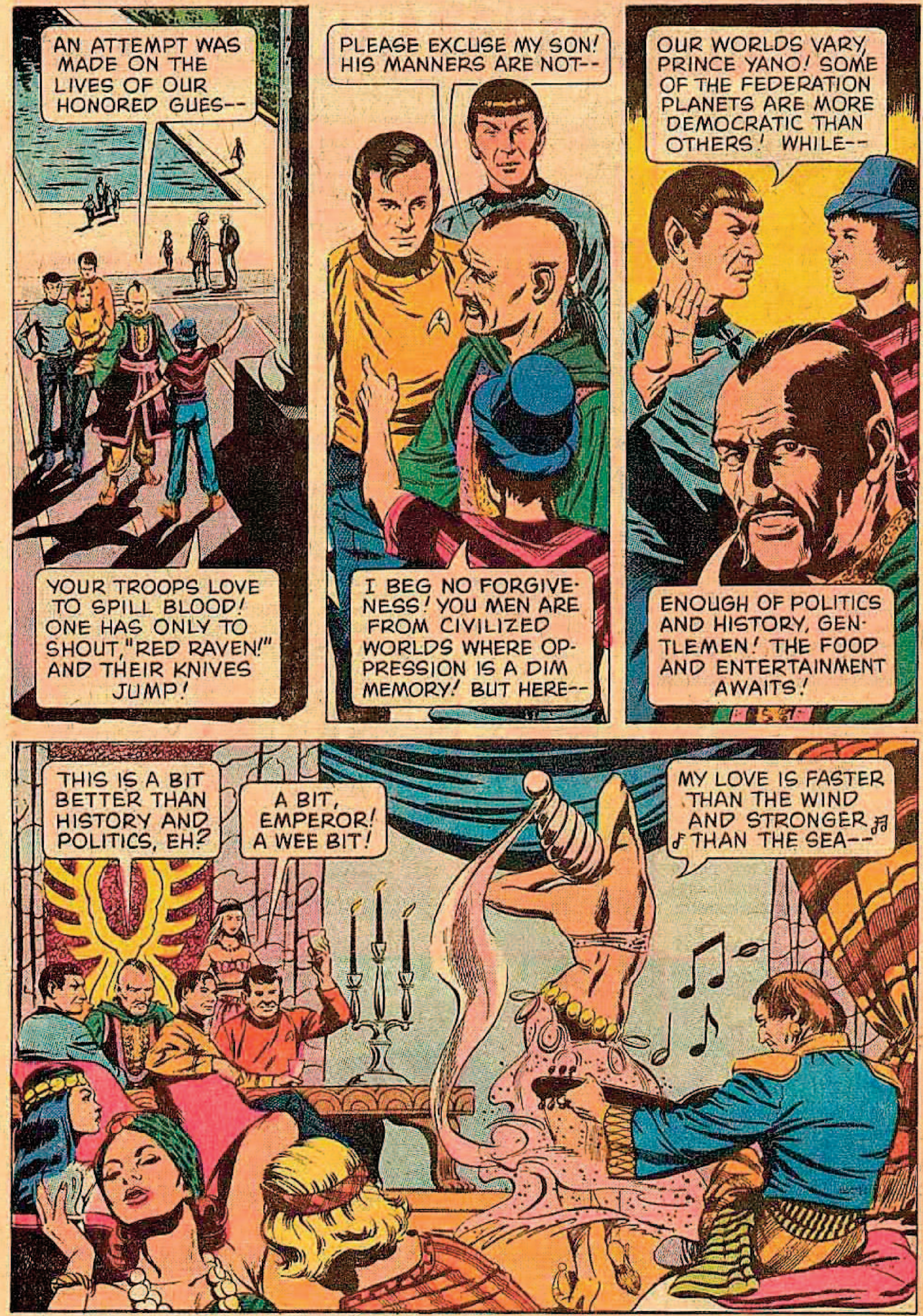
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:26:4. MR. SPOCK, SCOTTY AND I WILL BEAM DOWN TO PLANET FAYO FOR AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION.
LONG LIVE THE VISITORS FROM SPACE! HURRRRAH! FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN FAYO AND THE FEDERATION!
THIS RECEPTION SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE PEOPLE OF FAYO ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR LIVES!
OR THAT EMPEROR BAVODA KNOWS HOW TO TURN OUT A GOOD CROWD WHEN HE NEEDS ONE!
THAT MAN! HE IS ARMED! STOP HIM!
I AM THE AVENGING ARM OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF FAYO! DIE-- FRIENDS OF **BAVODA THE BUTCHER!**

PARDON M'MANNERS, CAPTAIN! BUT THERE'S AT LEAST ONE MON WHO DOESN'T WANT US HERE!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
DIE! YOU RUNNING DOG OF THE **RED RAVEN!**
EEYYAAA
THE ASSASSIN IS DEAD! MY COUNTRY APOLOGIZES FOR YOUR DISCOMFORT!
AFTER HE FIRED AT US HIS WEAPON WAS EMPTY! YOU COULD HAVE CAPTURED HIM, SOLDIER!
THESE 'FRIENDS' OF THE RED RAVEN SWOOP DOWN FROM THE HILLS AT NIGHT--AND KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
WE CAN SHOW THEM NO MERCY! THEY WOULD MISTAKE IT FOR WEAKNESS! ENJOY YOUR STAY, GENTLEMEN!
CAPTAIN, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT THIS ROUTINE VISIT--IS NOT AT ALL ROUTINE!
I SHARE YOUR RESERVATIONS MR. SPOCK! WE JUST MIGHT HAVE STEPPED INTO A HORNET'S NEST!

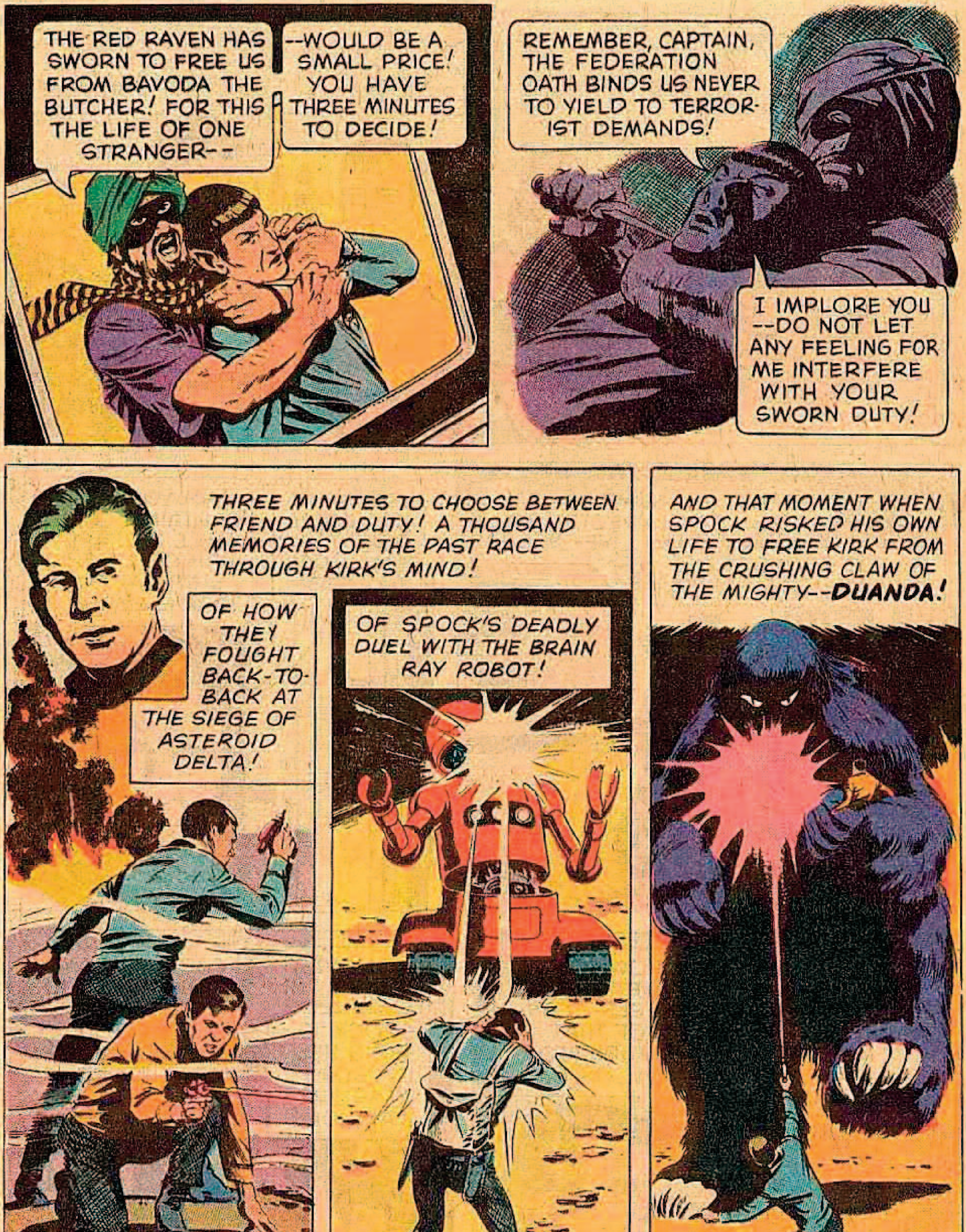
WELCOME, MEN OF THE FEDERATION! TEN THOUSAND APOLOGIES FOR THAT UGLY INCIDENT A MO-MENT AGO!
THANK YOU, EMPEROR BAVODA! THERE IS NO WORLD WITH-OUT SOME UNREST!
BUT THE EMPEROR CONTINUES TO BE UPSET!
WHAT MALICIOUS FOOL WOULD BE DISCONTENT HERE TODAY? WHEN MY FATHER OVERTHREW RIYO-III, THERE WAS STARVATION AND MISERY EVERYWHERE!
HE GAVE OUR PEOPLE FOOD AND--HOPE! I HAVE DONE SO AS WELL!
WE ARE NOT INFORMED ENOUGH TO DISCUSS YOUR HISTORY AND POLITICS, EMPEROR!
ALSO, NOT FOOL-ISH ENOUGH, EH? (HYEE-HYEE!) THEN WE SHALL WASTE NO MORE TIME ON IT! IN A MOMENT WE DINE! BUT FIRST--
--I WANT YOU TO MEET MY SON, YANO! A TALENTED LAD --MUSICIAN, POET, PAINT--
FATHER! YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR WORD TO ME! THIS DAY OF CELEBRATION HAS BEEN STAINED WITH BLOOD!


AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIVES OF OUR HONORED GUES--
YOUR TROOPS LOVE TO SPILL BLOOD! ONE HAS ONLY TO SHOUT, "RED RAVEN!" AND THEIR KNIVES JUMP!
PLEASE EXCUSE MY SON! HIS MANNERS ARE NOT--
I BEG NO FORGIVENESS! YOU MEN ARE FROM CIVILIZED WORLDS WHERE OPPRESSION IS A DIM MEMORY! BUT HERE--
OUR WORLDS VARY, PRINCE YANO! SOME OF THE FEDERATION PLANETS ARE MORE DEMOCRATIC THAN OTHERS! WHILE--
ENOUGH OF POLITICS AND HISTORY, GENTLEMEN! THE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT AWAITS!
THIS IS A BIT BETTER THAN HISTORY AND POLITICS, EH?
A BIT, EMPEROR! A WEE BIT!
MY LOVE IS FASTER THAN THE WIND AND STRONGER THAN THE SEA--

LATER...
EMPEROR, YOU INFORMED THE FEDERATION THAT YOU WISHED TO SEND A GIFT THROUGH US!
AHH! YES! I DID IN FACT SAY--MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION! CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS?
NEVER MIND, I WILL NOT TEASE YOU! THE GIFT I SEND YOU IS--MY SON!
FATHER!
WHAT?
HEAR ME OUT! FOR PURPOSES OF SEALING THE NEW BONDS BETWEEN FAYO AND THE FEDERATION, MY SON WILL JOIN YOUR STAR FLEET!
HE WILL STUDY AT YOUR ACADEMY AND THEN SERVE ONE--I BELIEVE YOU CALL IT--"HITCH"!
WHY DID YOU NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH ME, FATHER?
EMPEROR, CENTURIES AGO ON MY WORLD, FEUDAL LORDS SENT THEIR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO LIVE IN FOREIGN LANDS--HOSTAGES FOR PEACE!
THE FEDERATION WOULD NOT LOOK HAPPILY UPON SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IF--
NO! NO! IT IS NOT THAT WAY!

MY PEOPLE ARE GREAT ARTISTS AND ARTISANS! YOUR WORLDS ARE SCIENTIFIC! YOU CAN TEACH US MUCH!
MY SON IS A FINE STUDENT! ALSO--I TRUST HIM!
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS, PRINCE YANO?
LIKE ALL OF OUR PEOPLE, I WAS RAISED TO DO MY EMPEROR'S BIDDING! I WILL GO!
AND SO, ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...
GO AND MAKE US PROUD, MY SON!
I LEAVE, FATHER, BUT MY HEART REMAINS HERE--FOREVER!
SHORTLY, ON AN OPEN PLAIN FROM WHICH THEY WILL BE TRANSPORTED...
YES, THAT'S MY LUGGAGE-- AND MY SERVANTS! THEY GO WITH ME, OF COURSE!
OF COURSE, MY NOSE!
SORRY, PRINCE, BUT WE CAN'T BEAM THAT STUFF UP TO THE SHIP! THERE IS SIMPLY NO ROOM!
BUT HOW AM I EXPECTED TO LIVE WITHOUT THEM?

THEN, AS THEY BEAM UP...
I THOUGHT HE WAS A DEMOCRATIC PRINCE!
YES--BUT STILL A-- PRINCE!
NO! NO! IT IS SOME GHASTLY JOKE! I AM EXPECTED TO LIVE--HERE?
ALL THE ROOMS ARE THE SAME SIZE, PRINCE!
BUT THERE IS A ROOM DOWN THE HALL MUCH LARGER!
AHH, YES! THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN! WHILE YOU ARE A PRINCE, ON THIS SHIP CAPTAIN KIRK IS EMPEROR!
CAPTAIN! SOMETHING'S WRONG! MR. SPOCK DID NOT BEAM UP WITH THE REST OF YOU! I'VE MADE THREE ATTEMPTS!
HOW'S THAT? GET ME A TELE-SCAN OF THAT ENTIRE AREA, AT ONCE!
MOMENTS LATER!
SPOCK IS BEING HELD BY SOME MASKED WARRIOR!
CAPTAIN, I AM BEING ASKED TO RELAY THIS MESSAGE! MY LIFE WILL BE EXCHANGED FOR--THE PRINCE!


THE RED RAVEN HAS SWORN TO FREE US FROM BAVODA THE BUTCHER! FOR THIS THE LIFE OF ONE STRANGER--
--WOULD BE A SMALL PRICE! YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES TO DECIDE!
REMEMBER, CAPTAIN, THE FEDERATION OATH BINDS US NEVER TO YIELD TO TERRORIST DEMANDS!
I IMPLORE YOU --DO NOT LET ANY FEELING FOR ME INTERFERE WITH YOUR SWORN DUTY!
THREE MINUTES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FRIEND AND DUTY! A THOUSAND MEMORIES OF THE PAST RACE THROUGH KIRK'S MIND!
OF HOW THEY FOUGHT BACK-TO-BACK AT THE SIEGE OF ASTEROID DELTA!
OF SPOCK'S DEADLY DUEL WITH THE BRAIN RAY ROBOT!
AND THAT MOMENT WHEN SPOCK RISKED HIS OWN LIFE TO FREE KIRK FROM THE CRUSHING CLAW OF THE MIGHTY--**DUANDA!**

YOUR TIME IS UP! WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?
DON'T GIVE IN, CAPTAIN! IF YOU BUY BACK MY LIFE BY ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF TERROR, I WILL NOT BE GRATEFUL!
LOOK, CAPTAIN! THE PRINCE ACTIVATED THE TRANSPORTER HIMSELF! HE'S DELIVERING HIMSELF TO THE TERRORIST!
YES! HE'S MADE OUR DECISION FOR US!
A MOMENT LATER, AS THE PRINCE REMATERIALIZES ON PLANET FAYO...
NO MAN SACRIFICES HIMSELF FOR ME! I SHALL CONFRONT THE RED RAVEN MYSELF!
SO BE IT, PRINCE YANO! I WILL FREE THE SPACEMAN! BUT NO DECEITS-- OR YOU WILL DIE!
IN ANOTHER MOMENT, WARRIOR AND PRINCELY CAPTIVE RACE AWAY!
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION, MR. SPOCK!
AND I AM GLAD I AM A VULCAN-- WITHOUT THE USELESS EMOTIONS THAT TORTURE EARTHMEN SO!
WHILE YOU WERE FEELING SO TORN, CAPTAIN, DID YOU ASK YOURSELF HOW YOU WILL EXPLAIN THE PRINCE'S DISAPPEARANCE TO THE EMPEROR?
MR. SPOCK, I THINK YOU SOMETIMES CARRY YOUR NON-EMOTIONS A BIT TOO FAR!

LATER, AT THE PALACE...
--THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I PLACED YANO IN YOUR HANDS FOR SAFEKEEPING ONLY FIVE HOURS AGO!
YOUR SON TOOK THE DECISION FROM MY HANDS, SIR!
THAT IS NOT THE POINT! I PLACED MY FAITH IN YOU--AND YOU BE-TRAYED ME! YOU--DOG!
SPLATT
ONE BLINKIN' SECOND! YOUR BELOVED PEOPLE CALL YOU "BARODA THE BUTCHER"! AND MEN RUN INTO THE HILLS TO FIGHT YOU!
MR. SCOTT! YOU FORGET YOURSELF!
YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST TYRANT TO GET HOISTED BY HIS OWN CRUELTY! IF THIS RED RAVEN KILLS YOUR SON--YOUR HANDS WILL SHARE THE BLOOD, YOU-- LOUSY--
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO FOR-GIVE ME THIS ONE, SCOTTY! (HUNNNH!)
WHAPPP

MY APOLOGIES, EMPEROR!
REJECTED, CAPTAIN KIRK! YOU WILL LEAVE OUR WORLD AT ONCE! I SHALL FILE MY PROTEST WITH YOUR SUPREME COUNCIL!
THEY'LL FORCE YOU TO FACE A REVIEW BOARD FOR THIS, SIR! I'M SORRY FOR MY PART IN IT!
SKIP IT, SCOTTY! NONE OF US ACQUITTED HIMSELF TOO WELL!
SOON...
ENGINES AT THE READY, SIR! YOU'LL WANT FULL BLAST-OFF, I EXPECT!
NO, I WON'T, SCOTTY! I WANT JUST ENOUGH POWER TO TAKE US BEYOND THE VIEW OF THEIR CRUDE TELESCOPES!
THEN THE THREE OF US ARE GOING BACK DOWN THERE--UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS!
IF WE'RE GOING TO AVOID A NASTY INCIDENT BETWEEN PLANET FAYO AND OUR FEDERATED PLANETS--
SOMEWHERE ON THAT WORLD IS A REVOLUTIONARY BAND AND A CAPTIVE PRINCE!
--WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO HUNTING FOR--A RED RAVEN!

STAR TREK
PRINCE TRAITOR
PART II
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 19:26:4. A THERMAL-SCAN OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY SUGGESTS ONE JUNGLE AREA AS A POSSIBLE REBEL HQ. SHALL BEAM DOWN TO INVESTIGATE.
SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE IS A HIGH HEAT CONCENTRATION! EITHER AN UNDERGROUND SPA OR--
--A BUNCH OF REBEL CAMPFIRES! DENSE ENOUGH FOLIAGE CAN HIDE THEIR LIGHT, BUT NOT THEIR HEAT!
REBEL WARRIORS! MUST HAVE SPOTTED US THE MOMENT WE LANDED!
MAYBE THEY'VE GOT A BETTER HEAT-SENSOR THAN WE HAVE, CAPTAIN!

(UGH!) GOT TOO MANY TO HANDLE! C-CAN YOU GET TO YOUR PHASER, SCOTTY?
I'VE GOT--ALL I CAN DO--TO KEEP DANCIN', CAPTAIN!
WHOOSH
SWISHHH
I GOT ME TWO!
WHUMMP
THWACK
AND STILL THEY FALL--LIKE AUTUMN LEAVES!
SOME LEAVES! (UGGGH!)
BUT THEIR COURAGEOUS FIGHT PROVES USELESS AGAINST SUCH NUMBERS!
WELL, WE FOUND A WAY TO GET TO SEE THE PRINCE!
YES, WITH LUCK, WE MAY EVEN SHARE A CELL WITH HIM!

AND THAT KIND OF LUCK IS WITH THEM!
--AND RED RAVEN HIMSELF TOLD ME WHAT THEY WILL DEMAND FOR MY RELEASE!
WHAT SORT OF MAN IS THE REBEL CHIEF?
A PEASANT BRAGGART--PUFFED FULL OF SELF IMPORTANCE--CONVINCED ONLY HIS 'TRUTH' CAN PREVAIL!
STRANGE THAT SUCH A MAN COMMANDS SO MUCH ALLEGIANCE FROM HIS MEN!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE SYMPATHETIC TO MANY OF THE REBEL GOALS, PRINCE YANO.
I AM! FREEDOM TO SPEAK. A FAIR JURY SYSTEM. ELECTIONS FOR ALL MAJOR OFFICES. BUT NOT BY VIOLENCE!
A CHANGE MADE BY VIOLENCE WILL PROVE NO CHANGE AT ALL. BUT IF WE COULD PERSUADE MY FATHER--
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, PRINCE, BUT YOUR FATHER IS A TOUGH NUT! EVEN KIDNAPPING YOU MAY NOT SHAKE HIM!
I KNOW THAT! BUT HE RESPECTS YOU MEN OF THE FEDERATION! IF YOU WERE TO TALK TO HIM--
THE PRIME DIRECTIVE PROHIBITS SUCH INTERFERENCE IN NON-FEDERATED WORLDS!

IS THAT YOUR POSITION TOO, CAPTAIN?
I'M AFRAID SO, PRINCE YANO! WE CAN'T KNOWINGLY BREAK THAT PLEDGE!
GUARDS! RELEASE ME AT ONCE! IT IS I, YOUR CHIEF--THE RED RAVEN!
WHAT?
BRIEF MINUTES LATER...
IT'S TRUE, I AM THE RED RAVEN...SWORN ENEMY OF OPPRESSION AND INHERITED POWER! LIBERATOR OF MY PEOPLE!
AND A MOST COMPLICATED YOUNG MAN, PRINCE--RAVEN!
THEN YOU ENGINEERED THIS SHAM KIDNAPPING TO FORCE YOUR FATHER TO GRANT MORE FREEDOM TO ALL!
PRECISELY! BUT PERHAPS I HAVE A BETTER WEAPON THAN MY OWN LIFE --YOUR LIVES!
MY FATHER WOULD NEVER RISK HARM TO SUCH IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERATION!
THAT'S YOUR THEORY! WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG, M'LAD?

THE REBEL PRINCE IS SLOW TO REPLY...
WE ASSUME YOUR SILENCE MEANS THAT YOU WILL FIGHT! BUT DIDN'T YOU DENOUNCE CHANGE BY VIOLENCE?
NO! PRINCE YANO DID! HE CAN AFFORD SUCH LUXURY OF IDEAS! BUT THE RED RAVEN IS PREPARED--
--TO SPILL A LITTLE BLOOD FOR A GREAT AMOUNT OF FREEDOM!
YOU WILL COME WITH ME, CAPTAIN TO PROVE I HOLD YOU THREE HOSTAGE!
I HAVE NO CHOICE, PRINCE YANO!
THEN, AS THE REBEL BAND MOVES OUT...
WHAT IF YOUR FATHER'S TROOPS SPOT US?
IMPOSSIBLE! MY MEN CONTROL ALL BUT THE CITIES! AND, BY NIGHT, EVEN THE CITIES ARE OURS!
WHEN WE NEAR THE CITY, WE WILL HIDE UNTIL NIGHT AND THEN ENTER!
THERE WILL BE EXTRA IMPERIAL PATROLS! REMEMBER, PRINCE YANO HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!

AND, BACK AT REBEL HEADQUARTERS...
LISTEN, DUBO! THE SKYMEN FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER!
IF WE DIE, AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR EGGHEADED TALK, "MR. SPOCK"!
NOR I TO YOUR SIMPLE-MINDED PRATTLE, "MR. SCOTT".
SIMPLE-MINDED, IS IT, YOU BLOODLESS VULCAN! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S SIMPLE!
WE ARRIVE JUST IN TIME TO ENJOY THEIR PAIN!
SMACK
OWWWWW
YOU STRUCK A MIGHTY BLOW, EARTHMAN!
HE'S HAD IT COMING FOR YEARS! NOW GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE SMELLS UP THE PLACE!
AS THE GUARDS STOOP TO REMOVE THE BODY...
JUST TAKE TWO ASPIRINS AND CALL ME IF THE PAIN'S NOT GONE BY MORNING!
WHUMP

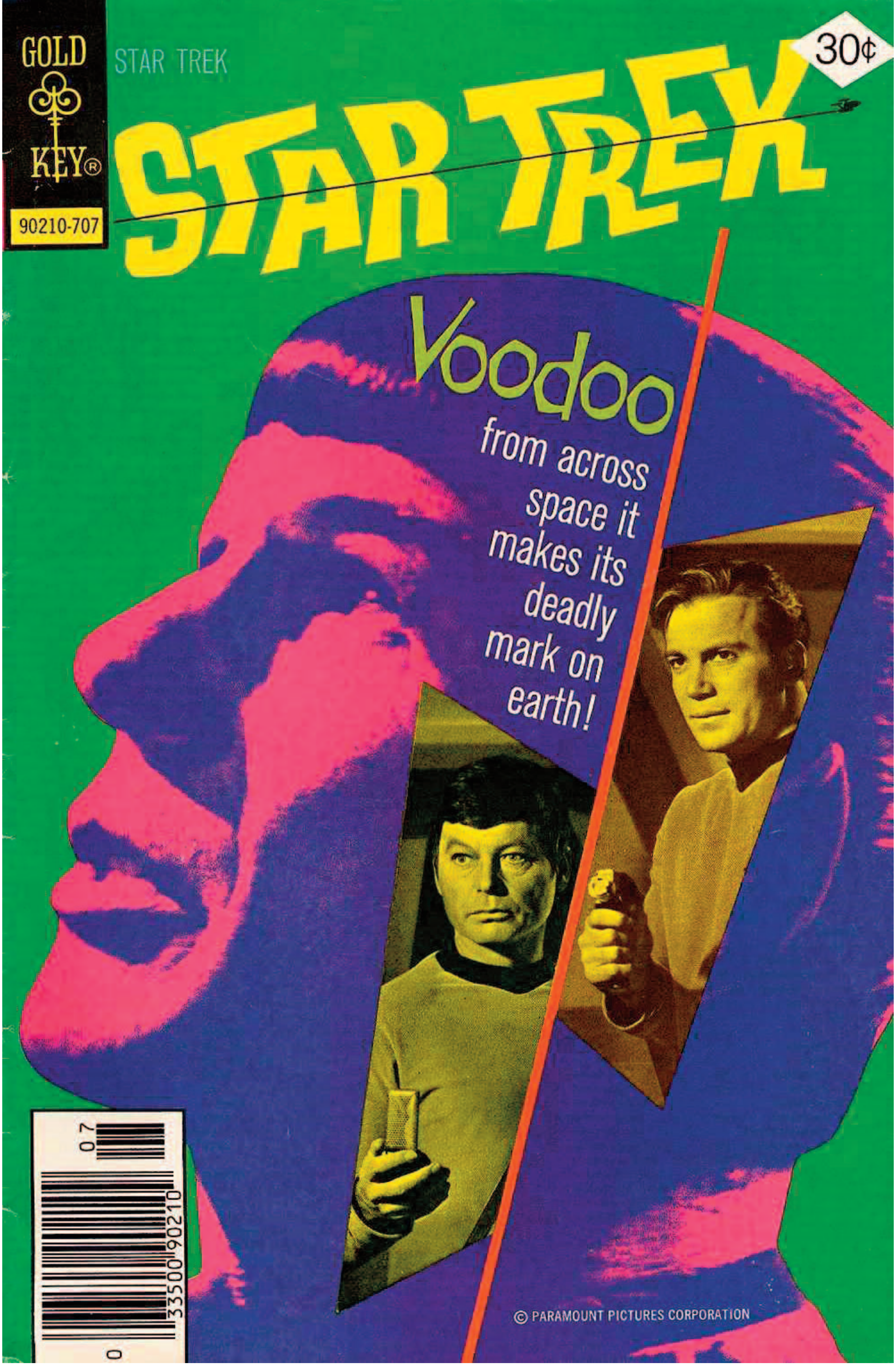
SOON...
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE I HEARD?
THE SKYMEN WERE FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER!
A GOOD FIGHT WHILE IT LASTED! LET THEM SLEEP IT OFF!
LATER, AT THE PALACE...
AS CHIEF OF SECURITY, COLONEL LAM, YOU MUST LOCATE AND DESTROY THE RED RAVEN BEFORE HE HARMS MY SON!
YES, SIRE! I WILL TRIPLE THE PA-TROLS--AND LEAD THEM MYSELF!
THEN, AS THE COLONEL PREPARES FOR BATTLE...
I'VE KNOWN FOR MONTHS THAT PRINCE YANO *IS* THE RED RAVEN! NOW IS MY CHANCE TO DESTROY HIM IN BATTLE--AND THEN CLAIM IGNORANCE AND DEEP REGRET!
REMEMBER, ORDRO, THE RED RAVEN IS CLEVER! HE MAY TRY SOME FANTASTIC TRICK! BE PREPARED!
YES, COLONEL! HE WILL NOT FOOL *US*!

AND OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS...
YOU AND I WILL SLIP INTO THE CITY AND MEET WITH MY FATHER! IF WE ARE NOT BACK IN ONE HOUR, MY TROOPS WILL ATTACK THE PALACE!
BUT COLONEL LAM HAS OTHER PLANS...
--AND WE WILL ATTACK THE VERY MOMENT ANY SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENT IS--
--WAIT! SOMETHING MOVED OUT THERE! LIGHT THE TORCHES!
IN ANOTHER SECOND, A CRUDE BUT EFFECTIVE 'SPOTLIGHT' COMES INTO PLAY...
AYEEEE! WE ARE DISCOVERED!
PREPARE TO ATTACK! TAKE NO PRISONERS!
SUDDENLY, FROM THE SHADOWS, A FIGURE DASHES FORWARD!
WAIT! LISTEN TO ME! PRINCE YANO IS NOT A CAPTIVE OF THE REBELS! THE PRINCE IS THE REBEL LEADER! HE'S COME TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH HIS FATHER!
YOU HEAR, ORDRO? I WARNED YOU THE RED RAVEN WAS TRICKY! BUT WE ARE NOT FOOLED!

LOYAL TROOPS OF THE EMPIRE-- ATTA-A-ACK!
I SUGGEST WE FALL BACK TOWARD THE JUNGLE WHERE THOSE BIG BEASTS CAN'T FOLLOW US!
THE RED RAVEN DOES NOT RETREAT! THIS IS NOT YOUR FIGHT, CAPTAIN!
WE ARE PERMITTED TO BATTLE IN SELF-DEFENSE, PRINCE YANO! NOW IF YOU WILL RETURN MY WEAPON!
I'M SORRY CAPTAIN, I'M STILL IN NO POSITION TO TRUST YOU!
DIE, INSOLENT SKYMAN!
MISSED ME, COLONEL! YOU'VE CERTAINLY TAKEN A QUICK DISLIKE TO ME!
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE IMPERIAL FORCES ATTACK UNTIL...
WE CAN'T WITHSTAND ANOTHER ATTACK, YANO!
PERHAPS MY FATHER DOES DESERVE POWER MORE THAN I!
HE IS WILLING TO LET ME DIE RATHER THAN LOSE HIS HOLD! I DOUBT THAT I COULD DO THE SAME!
THAT'S A TOUGH DISCOVERY FOR ANY YOUNG MAN TO MAKE ABOUT HIS FATHER! EVEN A PRINCE!

I TELL YOU, COLONEL, ONE OF THEM LOOKS MUCH LIKE PRINCE YANO!
YES! THE RED RAVEN, CLEVERLY DISGUISED! I WILL FINISH THAT ONE-- MYSELF! ATTA-A-A-A-ACK!
SUDDENLY...
BLAST YOU, MR. SPOCK! YOUR DELAY ALMOST CAUSED US TO MISS THE BATTLE!
BEAMING BACK TO THE SHIP TO REPLACE OUR WEAPONS WAS A-- USEFUL DELAY!
THE OTHER SKYMAN! DIE, YOU MEDDLING FOOL!
CLOSE, COLONEL! BUT--NO CIGAR!
WHISSSH
EEUNNHHH
YAHHHHH

THEN SHOOT ME AND BE DONE WITH IT!
NO! WAIT! DON'T KILL HIM!
THERE ARE SOME PRINCELY PRIVILEGES THAT I HAVE NOT YET RENOUNCED! AND THIS IS--ONE! (HUNNNGH!)
LATER AT A STRANGE FAMILY REUNION...
I SWEAR TO YOU, MY SON, I KNEW NOTHING OF COLONEL LAM'S TREACHERY! I WOULD NEVER LET HIM SPILL ONE DROP OF YOUR BLOOD!
I BELIEVE YOU, FATHER! BUT WHAT OF OUR PEOPLE? EVERY DAY THEIR BLOOD IS SPILLED FOR YOUR POWER!
I HAVE A SOLUTION! I AM ABDICATING IN YOUR BEHALF! I WANT TO SEE HOW QUICKLY YOU GIVE UP YOUR OWN POWER!
I-I-I WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THIS! BUT I WILL SEE TO IT THAT OUR PEOPLE BECOME THEIR OWN EMPERORS!
LATER, ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
PERSONALLY, I THINK ONCE HE'S HAD A SNIFF OF POWER, THE PRINCE WILL CHANGE HIS TUNE!
NO! I THINK YANO WILL REMAIN TRUE TO HIS PRINCIPLES! HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. SPOCK?
I AM SORRY, GENTLEMEN, I BROKE MY CRYSTAL BALL YESTERDAY!
THE END


GOLD KEY
90210-707
STAR TREK
30¢
STAR TREK
Voodoo
from across space it makes its deadly mark on earth!
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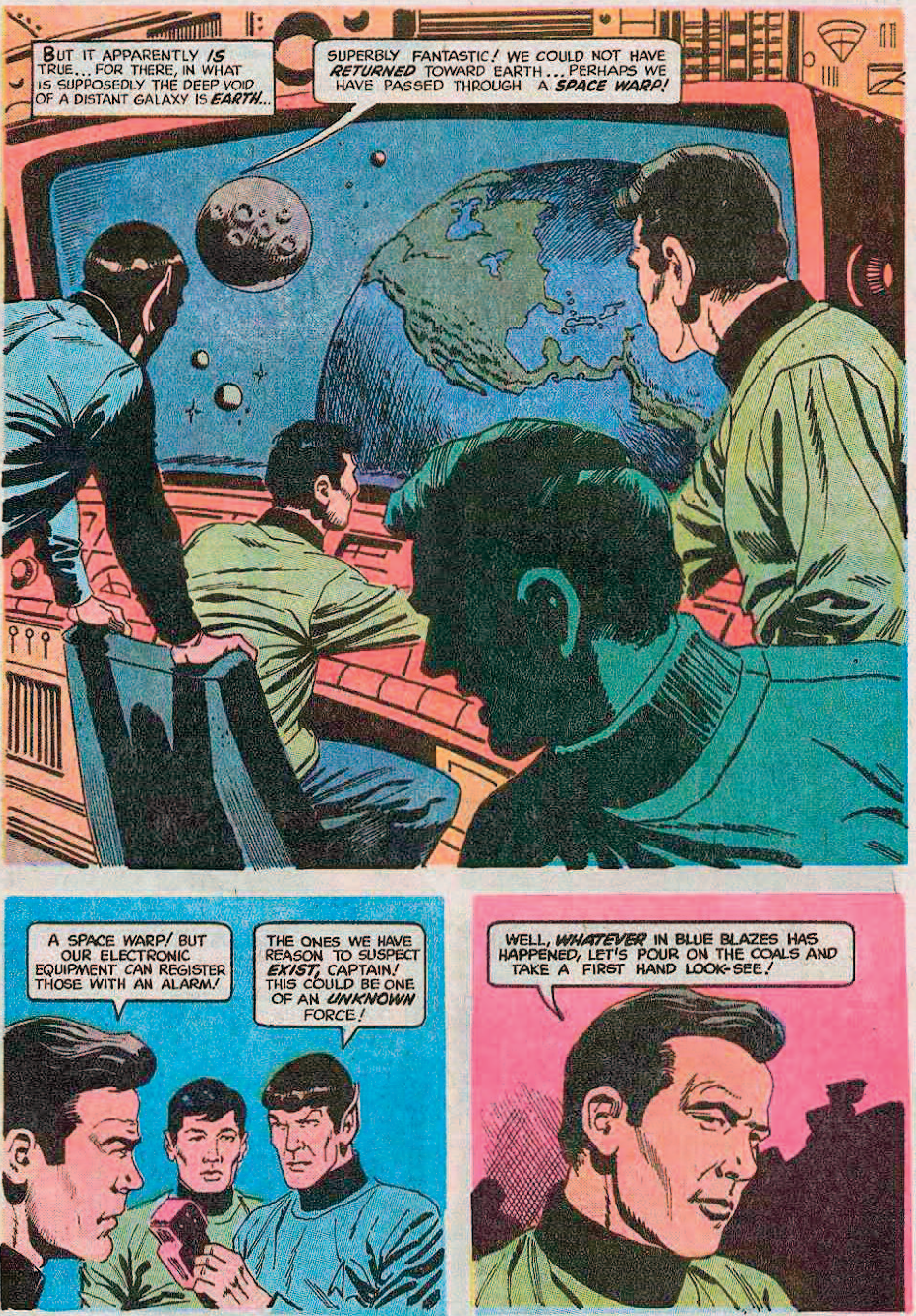
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 24:17.9 - THIS DAY IN OUR EXPLORATION OF DEEP SPACE, SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS DETECTED...
MR. SULU, GIVE ME MAXIMUM MAGNIFICATION OF THAT PLANET IN VECTOR A-7 ON THE VIEWER!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
NCC 1701
THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT PLANET! SOMETHING DISTURBING! MAYBE A GOOD, CLOSE LOOK WILL SHOW US WHAT!
SOME STELLAR DUST GOT BETWEEN US AND THE PLANET, CAPTAIN! WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL IT PASSES!
THEN, AS THE PICTURE CLEARS...
MR. SPOCK, REPORT TO THE BRIDGE ON THE DOUBLE!
WELL, SPOCK, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
NOT POSSIBLE, CAPTAIN! OUR CURRENT POSITION IS SEVERAL LIGHT YEARS DISTANT FROM THIS POINT!


BUT IT APPARENTLY IS TRUE... FOR THERE, IN WHAT IS SUPPOSEDLY THE DEEP VOID OF A DISTANT GALAXY IS EARTH...
SUPERBLY FANTASTIC! WE COULD NOT HAVE RETURNED TOWARD EARTH... PERHAPS WE HAVE PASSED THROUGH A SPACE WARP!
A SPACE WARP! BUT OUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT CAN REGISTER THOSE WITH AN ALARM!
THE ONES WE HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT EXIST, CAPTAIN! THIS COULD BE ONE OF AN UNKNOWN FORCE!
WELL, WHATEVER IN BLUE BLAZES HAS HAPPENED, LET'S POUR ON THE COALS AND TAKE A FIRST HAND LOOK-SEE!

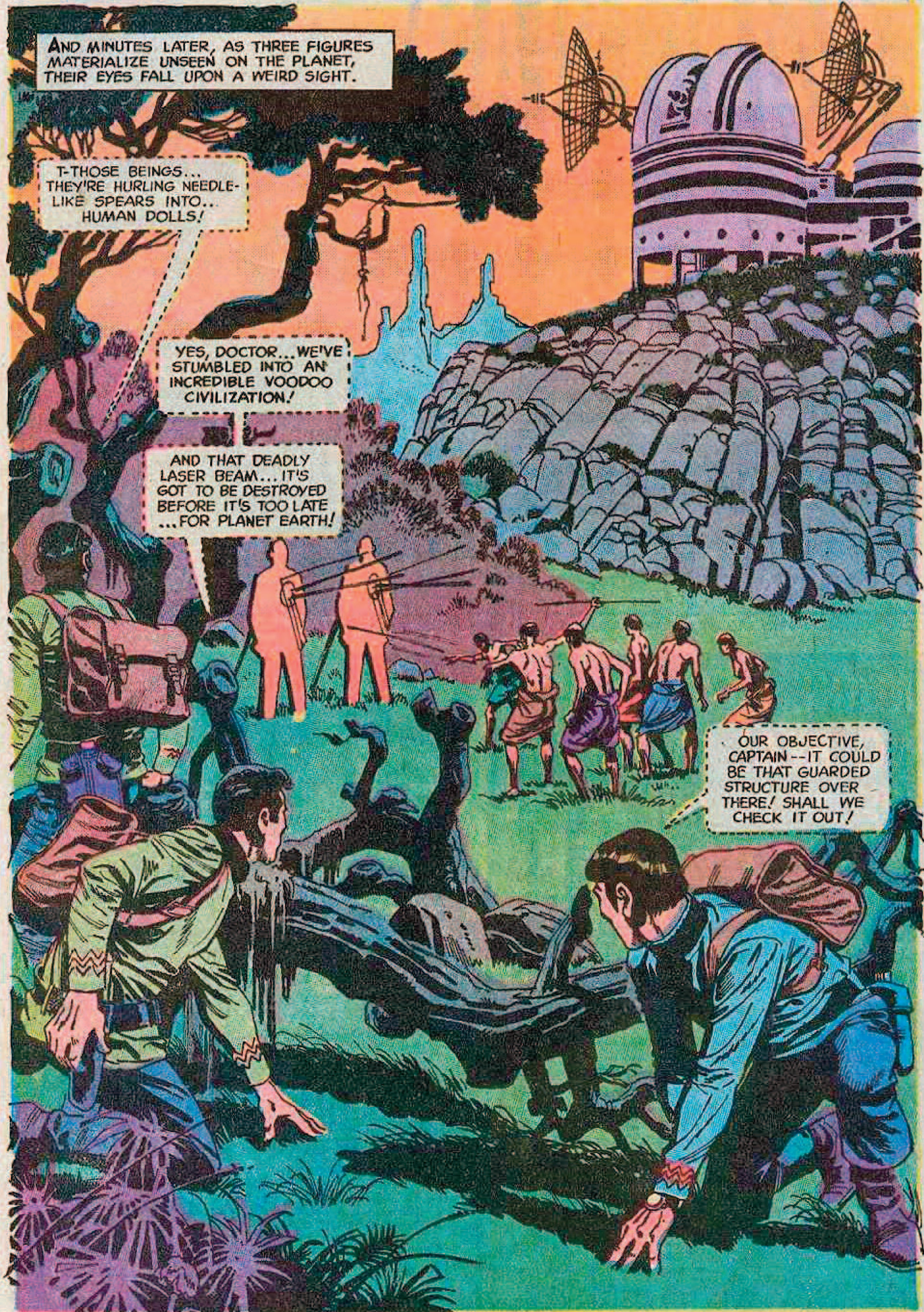
TENSE MINUTES LATER, THE ENTERPRISE CUTS HER POWER... AND AS SHE HOVERS OVER THE SURPRISING APPEARANCE OF EARTH...
WE'VE HOMED IN OVER PARIS, SPOCK-- GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO TRANSPORT DOWN, I GUESS!
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN KIRK!
MOMENTS AFTERWARD, IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM...
CAN'T TELL WHAT WE'LL RUN INTO DOWN THERE, DR. McCOY-- KEEP THE RADIO CLOSE!
ROGER!
AND WHEN THE PAIR HAVE MATERIALIZED NEAR THE FAMED EIFFEL TOWER...
MOST UNUSUAL ...NOT A PERSON ABOUT!
AND NOT A CAR OR BUS OR TRUCK! NOT EVEN A BIKE!
GR-GREAT NOVAS, SPOCK! COULD THERE HAVE BEEN A PROTON BOMB WAR--WHERE ONLY LIFE, NOT STRUCTURES, WERE DESTROYED BY THE TERRIBLE RAYS!
I THINK NOT...THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST SKELETONS REMAINING... AND WRECKAGE OF VEHICLES CRASHING!
SUDDENLY, MR. SPOCK'S ANALYTICAL MIND MAKES A STARTLING OBSERVATION...
CAPTAIN! THIS TOWER IS SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET SHORTER THAN THE 984 FEET RECORDED HEIGHT!
...SHADES OF VULCAN! THIS GIRDER!..

THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS PAPIER-MÂCHÉ!
A FAKE EIFFEL TOWER!
...A-A PAPIER-MÂCHÉ CITY TOO?
SUDDENLY THEIR ASTONISHMENT TURNS TO TERROR AS...
LASER BEAM-RAY!
YIPES! A THOUSAND TONS OF PAPIER-MÂCHÉ WILL KILL LIKE BRICKS, SPOCK-- RUN FOR IT!
MOST ASSUREDLY!

WELCOME TO MY PRIVATE WORLD!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S ALL THIS MADNESS ABOUT? WHAT KIND OF CRAZY GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
YOU WILL HAVE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS...IF YOU LIVE TO HEAR THEM!
WELL, SPOCK--- WHAT DOES YOUR VULCAN MIND MAKE OF THIS?
AN OBVIOUSLY DEMENTED BEING, CAPTAIN...
BUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS DUPLICATE EARTH OF YOURS CHALLENGES MY INTELLIGENCE! WHAT PURPOSE COULD IT POSSIBLY SERVE?
SUDDENLY, A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE ENTERPRISE SHATTERS THE DRAMA...
CAPTAIN! A CONDITION RED OVER SPACE RADIO! THE CITY OF PARIS HAS BEEN THROWN INTO PANIC!
WHAT! WE'LL TRANSPORT AT ONCE BACK TO THE SHIP!
RETURNING ABOARD, THE TRIO IS SHOWN AN ASTONISHING SIGHT BY A WIDE-EYED LT. SULU...
IT'S A SHOCKER, SIR! AS YOU CAN SEE BY THIS RELAYED GALAXY RADIO PHOTOGRAPH--THE EIFFEL TOWER ON EARTH HAS COLLAPSED!

SUDDENLY, ANOTHER PHOTOGRAPH IS BEAMED ONTO THE ENTERPRISE'S SCREEN...
THE STRUCTURE SUDDENLY BUCKLED IN TWO... KILLING HUNDREDS! THE MYSTERIOUS CATASTROPHE OCCURRED AT EXACTLY 12:40 P.M....
12:40 PM EARTH TIME! THAT WAS PRECISELY THE OUTER-GALAXY TIME HERE THAT THE PAPER-MACHÉ TOWER TOPPLED ON US!
THEN... THERE'S A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO CALAMITIES! IT BEING MERE COINCIDENCE BORDERS ON THE... IMPOSSIBLE!
COULD IT BE SOME SORT OF WEIRD, DEEP SPACE VOODOO, I WONDER?
VOODOO? OH YES, THOSE MYSTERIOUS RITES PRACTICED BY CULTS IN WHICH THEY STICK A PIN INTO A DOLL REPRESENTING AN ENEMY... AND HE SUPPOSEDLY DIES!
YES, MR. SPOCK, AND AS A LASER-BEAM "PIN" STUCK THE FAKE EIFFEL TOWER THE REAL ONE "DIED" ON EARTH!
WHY, THE ENTIRE EARTH COULD BE VOODOOED TO DOOM THAT WAY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THAT LASER BEAM FAST, MEN!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE MIGHTY ENTERPRISE PROCEEDS UNDER FULL POWER! BUT EVEN BEFORE SHE CAN ESCAPE THE AREA, ANOTHER CALAMITY IS IN THE MAKING...
CAPTAIN! OUR SPACE-SCOPE IS DETECTING A FLASHING OBJECT... UNDER TERRIFIC SPEED... COMING THIS WAY!
WE SIGHTED IT, LT. SULU—GREAT STARS! A LASER BEAM... AND ON A DIRECT COURSE TOWARDS ROME!
NCC1701
THE PAPER-MÂCHÉ COLOSSEUM... THE BEAM HAS PULVERIZED IT!
CONTACT EARTH AT ONCE--SEE IF THE COLOSSEUM IS STILL STANDING!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
KA-FOOMM!
A STAGGERING REPORT DESCRIBING ANOTHER CATASTROPHE IS SHORTLY RECEIVED BY THE SHIP...
OUR GREAT ROMAN AMPHITHEATER... FALLEN INTO DUST...
HOW COULD IT HAPPEN— JUST LIKE THAT?


AND MINUTES LATER, AS THREE FIGURES MATERIALIZE UNSEEN ON THE PLANET, THEIR EYES FALL UPON A WEIRD SIGHT.
T-THOSE BEINGS... THEY'RE HURLING NEEDLE-LIKE SPEARS INTO... HUMAN DOLLS!
YES, DOCTOR... WE'VE STUMBLED INTO AN INCREDIBLE VOODOO CIVILIZATION!
AND THAT DEADLY LASER BEAM... IT'S GOT TO BE DESTROYED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE ...FOR PLANET EARTH!
OUR OBJECTIVE, CAPTAIN--IT COULD BE THAT GUARDED STRUCTURE OVER THERE! SHALL WE CHECK IT OUT!

HE'S GOING TO HIT THAT BUTTON -- IT MUST BE THE LASER BEAM FIRING BUTTON!
STOP! OR WE'LL FIRE!
TOO LATE!
AND AN INSTANT LATER, IN EGYPT...
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE SPHINX IS TOPPLING!
MAY ALLAH SPARE US...

AND BACK IN THE CONTROL ROOM ON THE AWESOME VOODOO PLANET...
THE SPHINX IS DESTROYED!
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT NOW-- BUT THIS MAD FIEND'S GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! TAKE HIM!
YOU'LL "TAKE" NO ONE, YOU IDIOTS! LOOK THERE!
TWO VOODOOITES... CLUTCHING DOLLS OF US, CAPTAIN...
AND ABOUT TO PLUNGE NEEDLES INTO THEM!
A-A SHARP PAIN... IN MY SIDE...
MY STOMACH... BURNING UP!
HA, HA, HA... HO, HO!
CONTINUED...

STAR TREK CHAPTER II
THE VOODOO PLANET
C-COUNT DRESSLER!
AS KIRK AND SPOCK INVADE THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE VOODOO PLANET NEEDLES ARE STUCK INTO DOLLS BEARING THEIR RESEMBLANCE ...AND A FLOOD OF PAIN STRIKES THEM DOWN!
THEY ARE SUBDUED! STRIP THEM OF THEIR WEAPONS AND ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS--- THEN REMOVE THE VOODOO PINS!
GOOD! NOW PLACE THEM IN THE PRISONER CONFINEMENT CAGE!
G-GREAT NOVAS! DRESSLER, THE MAD RULER OF A TINY KINGDOM ON EARTH ... UP HERE!

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU VANISHED TO WHEN HALF THE WORLD WAS HUNTING YOU DOWN, DRESSLER!
PRECISELY! IT SUITED MY PURPOSES TO FLEE EARTH AT THE TIME!
WELL, AT LEAST YOUR INSANE PLAN OF DOMINATING THE WORLD FROM YOUR LITTLE KINGDOM WAS SMASHED!
YOU WERE THE ONLY FANATIC IN POWER WHO SOUGHT TO MAKE HYDROGEN BOMBS WHEN ALL EARTH WAS NEGOTIATING TO BAN THEM!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT, DRESSLER? THE LAST I HEARD, THOUSANDS OF TROOPS WERE CLOSING IN ON YOUR KINGDOM!
I WAS QUITE PREPARED, CAPTAIN KIRK!
"WHEN I REALIZED THE ODDS WERE HOPELESS, I MERELY TRIGGERED MY EMERGENCY PLAN— ROCKET ESCAPE INTO DEEP SPACE..."
"I SOUGHT REFUGE ON ONE OF THE PLANETS HOSTILE TO EARTH'S WAYS! IT WAS MERELY GOOD FORTUNE I CAME UPON THE VOODOO PLANET HERE..."
FRIENDLY SPACE CRUISER REQUESTS LANDING PERMISSION!

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I MASTERED THE MINDS OF THESE DOLTS, STOLE THEIR OCCULT SECRETS AND BECAME THEIR LEADER!
BUT OBSERVE... YOU ARE JUST IN TIME FOR A DEMONSTRATION!
THEN...
WHA...? HE SEEMS TO BE THROWING HIMSELF INTO A TRANCE OF SOME KIND!
UNDOUBTEDLY A RITUAL NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE VOODOO ACT, CAPTAIN!
ABRUPTLY, A PICTURE FLASHES ON THE SCREEN...
YAA... EEEOOO ...KYA... KYA...
A TV PICTURE OF THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA!
OBSERVING HOW THIS CRIMINAL INDUCES VOODOOISM CAN BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
AND NOW HE'S DRINKING A GREEN LIQUID!
HMM... THE LIQUID OBVIOUSLY ACTIVATES HIS VOODOO POWERS IN SOME WAY!

IN A HYPNOTIC STATE, DRESSLER HEADS FOR THE LASER BEAM GUN...
HE HAS MADE HIMSELF INTO A MAN POSSESSED!
AND HE'S HEADING FOR THE LASER GUN... TO BLAST THE PISA TOWER ON HIS MOCK EARTH, NO DOUBT!
A MOMENT LATER, A DEADLY LASER BEAMS STREAKS FROM THE VOODOO PLANET THROUGH SPACE..
AND A MICRO SECOND LATER, AS THE DUMMY PISA TOWER IS DESTROYED...
WHOOSH
TH-THAT'S IT! THE ONE AND ONLY LEANING TOWER OF PISA ON EARTH GONE ON A VOODOO WIND!
YOU SEE, CAPTAIN KIRK... MR. SPOCK! I HAVE NOT LOST! YOU WILL STAY HERE AS MY HOSTAGES...
... AND INFORM EARTH I WILL VOODOO IT TO UTTER DESTRUCTION UNLESS I AM GRANTED AMNESTY TO RETURN A FREE MAN!

YOU ARE A LITTLE LATE, DR. McCOY! KINDLY EMPLOY YOUR PHASER!
A PLEASURE, MR. SPOCK! STAND BACK AND I'LL BLAST THOSE BARS!
THE RADIO TRANSMITTER, MEN--WE'VE GOT TO BUST OUR WAY THROUGH THOSE VOODOOITES TO GET AT IT! MOVE QUICKLY!
THEN, WHEN THE PHASER MELTS ENOUGH OF THE BARS TO FORM AN EXIT...
NOW!
TH-THEY'RE FREE!
HOLD THEM OFF...WHILE I GRAB THE RADIO!

DESPERATELY, DR. McCOY AND SPOCK HOLD OFF THE VOODOOITES, UNTIL...
DOWN THEM, YOU DOLTS--BEAT THEM TO THE GROUND!
I HAVE IT, MEN--BUT WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR THESE CHARACTERS FROM THE AREA...
...OR THE PACK OF THEM WILL BE TRANSPORTED UP TO THE ENTERPRISE WITH US WHEN I RADIO IN!
FINALLY, FOR A FLEETING MOMENT THE THREE ARE FREE...
THIS IS IT! LEAP TOWARD ME... HURRY!
CAPTAIN KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! TRANSPORT US BACK... IMMEDIATELY! RED ALERT!

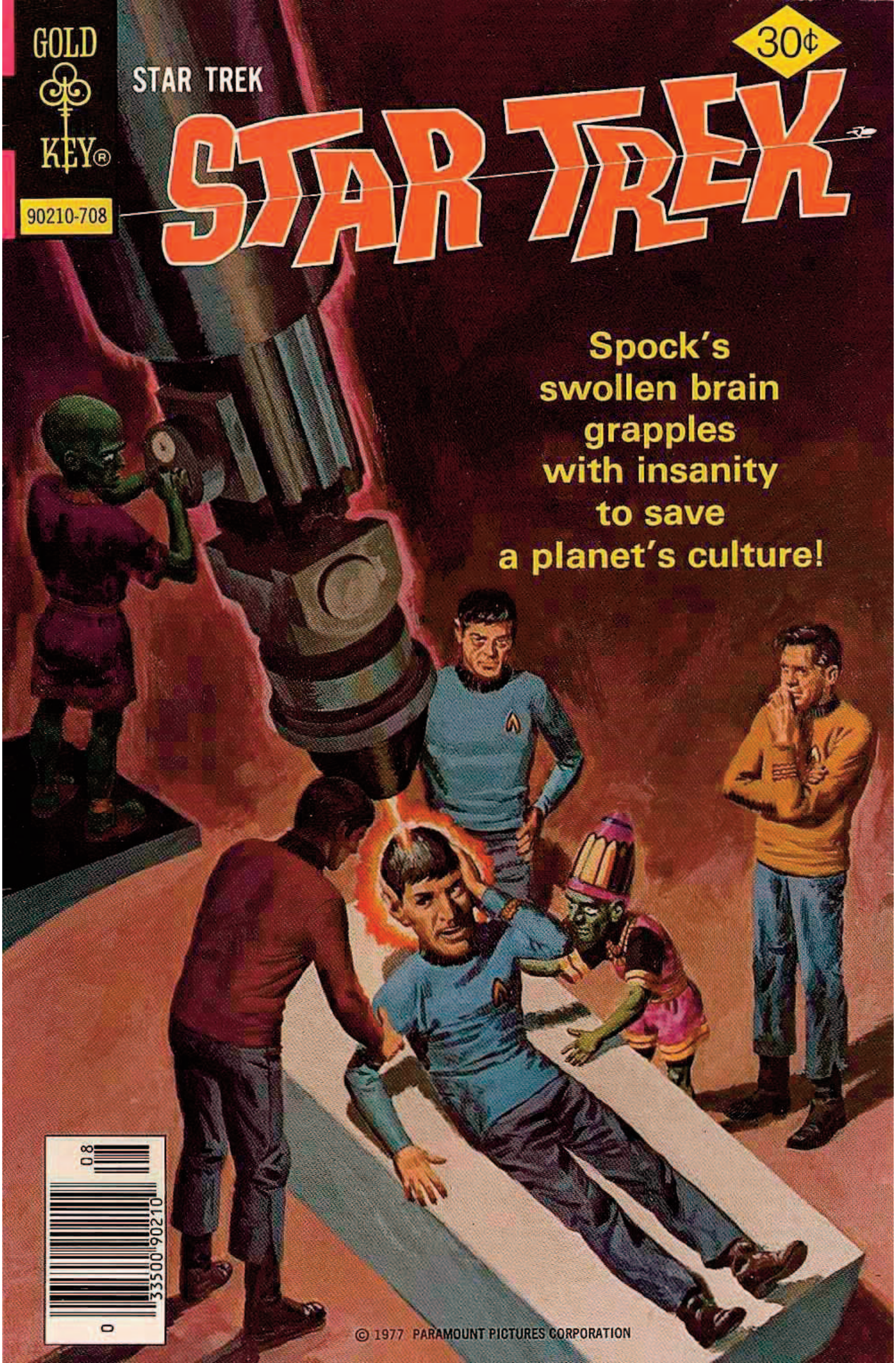
VANISHING ...BEFORE MY VERY EYES! INCREDIBLE!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF US, DRESSLER --WE'RE GOING TO STOP YOUR MAD SCHEME...ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
AS THE TRIO MATERIALIZES IN THE TRANSPORTER CHAMBER ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
WHAT CAN WE DO, CAPTAIN? IF WE RAY-ATTACK DRESSLER'S LAIR WE'RE BOUND TO KILL THOSE MISLED VOODOOITES!
YES...THAT'S OUT! BUT WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH SOME-THING -- AND FAST!
PERHAPS IF I STUDY MY BOOK ON VULCAN OCCULT HISTORY IT MAY SUGGEST A SOLUTION, CAPTAIN...
I SEEM TO RECALL A STRANGE CLAN THAT PRACTICED SUCH BIZARRE POWERS CENTURIES AGO!
GOOD IDEA, SPOCK! WE'VE GOT TO PLAY ALL THE ANGLES... O-OH! MY ARM!
MY LEFT LEG...A SEVERE SHOOTING PAIN!
DRESSLER! HE MUST BE PLAYING PINS AND NEEDLES WITH YOUR VOODOO DOLLS! CAPTAIN...SPOCK-- HOW BAD IS IT?
UNBEARABLE!
I-I DON'T THINK I CAN STAND IT!

LET'S GET INTO SICK BAY! I'LL INJECT YOU WITH A *PAIN KILLER!* IT SHOULD EASE YOUR SUFFERING...
OH... OH...
AGONIZING MINUTES LATER AFTER THE INJECTIONS...
WELL... ANY RELIEF?
TOLERABLE... AT LEAST I CAN FUNCTION...
THAT CRACK-POT'S REALLY GOT US AT HIS MERCY...
LET'S GET TO THAT OCCULT BOOK OF YOURS, SPOCK--AND HOPE IT CONTAINS SOMETHING TO STOP HIM!
NCC 1701
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN...
THE "WOUNDED" KIRK AND SPOCK ANXIOUSLY SCAN THE PAGES OF THE BOOK FOR HOURS--UNTIL...
HERE IT IS, CAPTAIN... THE VULCAN CLAN WAS KNOWN AS *PAIN CASTERS!*
GO ON, SPOCK-- KEEP READING...
HMM-M... MOST AMAZING--THE RITUAL PRACTICED BY THE PAIN CASTERS TO INFLICT PHYSICAL HARM IS ALMOST *IDENTICAL* TO THE VOODOO RITES...
A TRANCE-LIKE STATE IS INDUCED BY A MYSTIC CHANT ...A POTION SWALLOWED AND THE POWER OF PAIN CASTING IS INDUCED...
SPOCK! THIS MAY BE OUR SOLUTION...

IF WE COULD *DUPLICATE* THE PAIN CASTERS' POWERS WE COULD TACKLE DRESSLER WITH HIS OWN WEAPON -- VOODOOISM!
DOES IT MENTION THE INGREDIENTS OF THE POTION?
YES, BUT THE HERBS AND CHEMICALS REQUIRED CAN BE FOUND ONLY ON VULCAN...
HOWEVER, I MAY BE ABLE TO PRODUCE *SYNTHETIC* INGREDIENTS!
THEN LET'S GET TO THE LAB AND GO TO WORK!
AS THE PAIN CONTINUES TO WRACK THEIR LIMBS, KIRK AND SPOCK FRANTICALLY WORK -- UNTIL FINALLY...
THIS SHOULD DO IT... BUT I CAN PROMISE NOTHING, CAPTAIN!
PUT IT TO THE TEST, SPOCK...
A MOMENT LATER, A KNEELING DR. SPOCK UTTERS STRANGE WORDS...
KA-LOOO... ZHAAAAAA... BROOOO...
IT'S GOT TO WORK, McCOY-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE FOR DEALING WITH THAT MADMAN...
HE'S DRINKING THE POTION! WE'LL SOON KNOW THE ANSWER!
I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED...

SUDDENLY, THE TENSENESS IS BROKEN AS...
CAPTAIN! THE PAIN IN MY LEG... IT'S GONE! THIS MEANS I POSSESS THE POWERS OF THE PAIN CASTERS...
HURRY... PERFORM THE RITUAL AS I DID AND RID YOURSELF OF YOUR PAIN!
AND AFTER THE CAPTAIN PERFORMS THE RITUAL...
NO MORE PAIN... WHAT A RELIEF! AND NOW INTO ACTION...
WE'VE GOT TO RETURN TO THE PLANET... DESTROY THAT LASER BEAM AND DEAL WITH DRESSLER! ONLY THIS TIME WE CAN MATCH HIS VOODOO WEAPON WITH PAIN CASTING!
I HAVE AN IDEA HOW THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, CAPTAIN--BUT I WILL REQUIRE A FEW MINUTES...
JOIN ME IN THE TRANSPORTER CHAMBER...
SHORTLY...
REMEMBER, WE WANT TO MATERIALIZE RIGHT IN DRESSLER'S LAB!
YES SIR!
AND AS THE MATERIALIZING FORMS OF THE CAPTAIN AND SPOCK APPEAR IN DRESSLER'S LABORATORY...
YOU TWO... BACK AGAIN, EH? I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE NOT IN UTTER PAIN...
BUT THIS TIME I SHALL KILL YOU WITH MY VOODOO POWERS!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, DRESSLER!

SUDDENLY THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS...
LOOK! DRESSLER'S STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS...AND HE'S CLUTCHING HIS SHOULDER AS IF IN PAIN!
OUR PAIN CASTING IS AFFECTING HIM! NOW I UNDERSTAND...
THE POTION THAT PROTECTED HIM FROM OUR POWERS HAS WORN OFF...HE'S NO LONGER IMMUNE...
AND NOW HE'S FEELING THE EFFECT OF THE PIN JAB WE GAVE HIS DOLL!
WELL, LET'S GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT HIM TO THE SHIP BEFORE ONE OF THE VOODOO RAY BLASTS CALL US BY NAME!
A MOMENT LATER, KIRK RADIOS FOR THE TRANSPORTER BEAM AND...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE--WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
AND ABOARD THE STAR SPACESHIP ENTERPRISE...
I SUPPOSE A QUICK TRIAL AND EXECUTION WILL BE MY FATE...
WE HAVE BETTER PLANS FOR YOU, COUNT DRESSLER--A FATE BEFITTING YOUR EVIL!
WE HAVE A PLANET IN MIND FOR YOU--ONE ON WHICH YOU CAN SUSTAIN YOURSELF BUT WHERE THERE IS NO LIVING BEING YOU CAN HARM!
A-A PLANETARY PRISON...I'LL GO MAD!
YOU MIGHT CALL IT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, DRESSLER!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STAR TREK
Spock's swollen brain grapples with insanity to save a planet's culture!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE, 23:19.2
I have received orders from Star Fleet Command to execute a new long range probe technique...
SWEET MOTHER... HERE WE GO!
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL... PREPARE FOR WARP DRIVE!
WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR? YOU'RE A LOVELY SHADE OF AQUAMARINE!
I HAVE NEVER ENJOYED THE QUAINT PLEASURES OF WARP DRIVE, NURSE CHAPEL!
IS THERE A MAN IN THE SERVICE WHO LIKES IT? BUT WITHOUT W.D. WE'D BE...
"AN ISOLATED LEAF IN THE ENDLESS OCEAN CALLED UNIVERSE!"
...AND THE ONLY EXPERIENCE I HATE WORSE THAN WARP DRIVE IS BEING QUOTED TO FROM THE STAR FLEET ORIENTATION LECTURES!
WHUMP!
TEMPER, DOCTOR... TEMPER! HA-HA-HA!
READY, MR. SPOCK?
IN ONE MOMENT, CAPTAIN! JUST A FINAL CHECK OF THE INSTRUMENTS...
BEEP BEEP BEEP REEOOEE
YES... ALL IN ORDER!

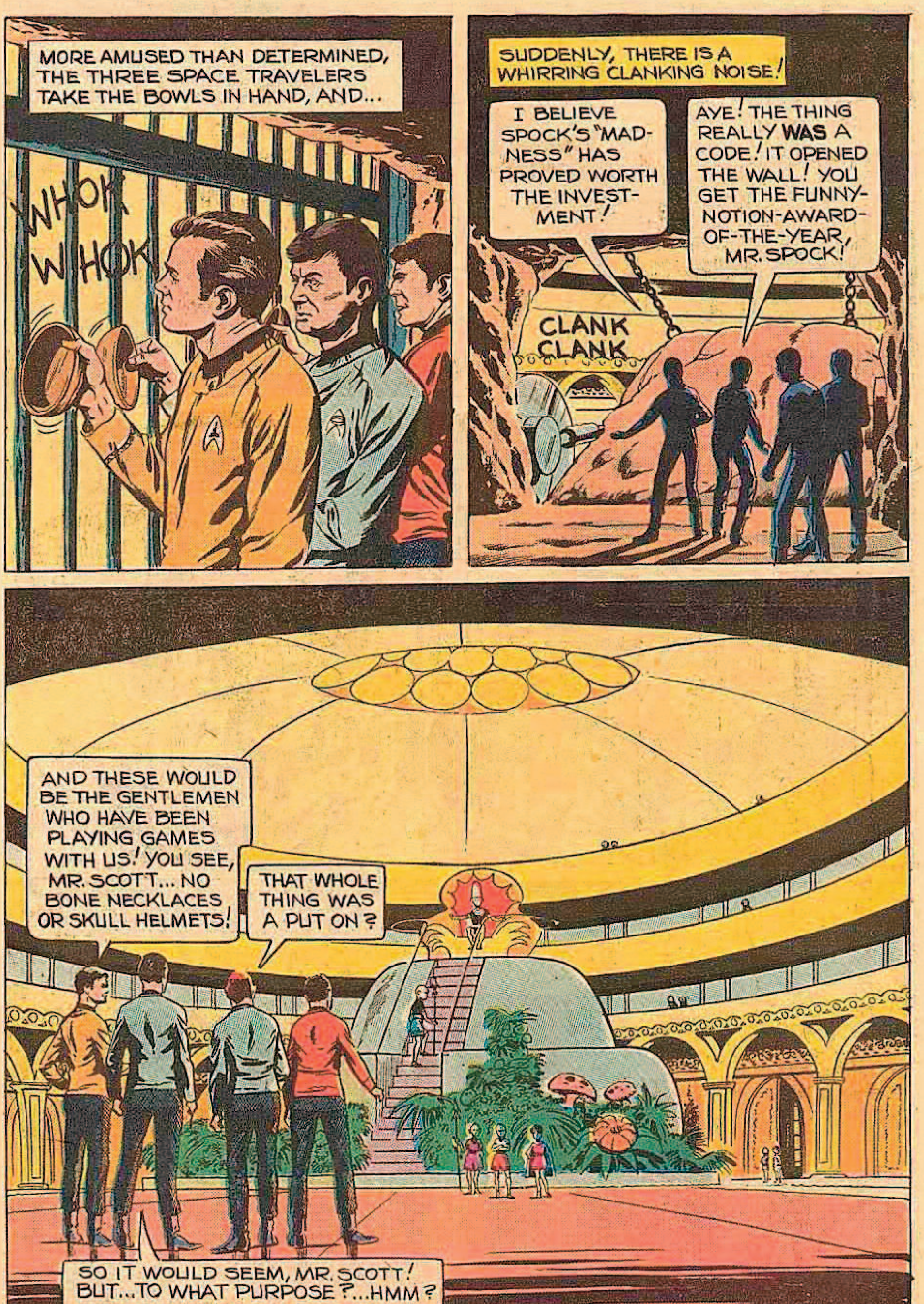
CAPTAIN TO ENGINE ROOM... ENGAGE, MR. SCOTT!
AYE, CAPTAIN... INTO THE MOUTH OF HELL IT IS!
A SLOW RYTHMIC THRUST GROWS IN BEAT AND INTENSITY, LIKE THE RISING TATOO OF A GIANT FIST ON THE GREAT SHIP'S HULL!
AND THEN IT IS AN ASCENDING SHRIEK, SHRILL-ING AT THE EARS, TEARING AT THE INNARDS... FOR THE SHIP IS NOW TRAVELING AT MORE THAN EIGHT TIMES THE SPEED THAT EINSTEIN HAD DEEMED IMPOSSIBLE!
NCC-1701
AND FOR BREAKING THAT "LAW", THE CREW MUST PAY A WRENCHING, DIZZYING, BLINDING FINE!

AS THE SHIP EXITS FROM THAT "TUNNEL" OF TORMENT...
RELAX!
ATTENTION, ALL PERSONNEL... THIS IS A PRIORITY-1 ORDER FROM YOUR CAPTAIN...
WELL, MR. SPOCK, WHAT DOES YOUR MAGIC WAND TELL YOU ABOUT THIS CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE?
THE COMPUTER IS STILL DOING ITS C-AND-A, COLLATING AND ANALYZING THE PRINT-OUTS WILL BEGIN ANY SECOND NOW!
AND, AS THE DATA BEGINS TO APPEAR...
THE PROJECTIONS ON POSSIBLE INHABITED PLANETS SEEM LOW!
YES! THERE'S A LX3.510 RATIO... QUITE LOW BY PREVIOUS STANDARDS!
BUT ONE OF THOSE PLANETS PARTICULARLY INTERESTS ME! YOU SEE...??
YES! GOOD OXYGEN-NITROGEN CYCLE, MODERATE TEMPERATURE SWINGS... BUT WHY DO YOU FIND IT...
OH, YES... I SEE THEIR SUN... IT'S GOING... NOVA!

I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY A DYING STAR IS CALLED A 'NOVA'! THAT'S LATIN FOR 'NEW'!
A 17NTH CENTURY SCANDINAVIAN ASTRONOMER MADE THE FIRST PUBLISHED OBSERVATIONS
AND HE MISTOOK THE FLARE OF A DYING STAR FOR THE BIRTH OF A NEW ONE!
A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ARTIFICIAL HEAT, NITRIC ACID, BASIC TO HEAVY INDUSTRY, AND FINALLY, MAN-MADE RADIO-ACTIVITY! IT'S AT LEAST A **2-B CIVILIZATION**!
THAT'S WAY UP THE LADDER-OF-PROGRESS!
THEY ARE ADVANCED ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THEIR SUN IS DYING AND THAT THEY MUST ABANDON THAT WORLD SOON! PERHAPS WE...
COULD GIVE THEM A HAND? WELL, WE CAN TRY, MR. SPOCK!
LATER...
TAKE THE HELM, MR. SULU! ALL RIGHT... LET'S GO!
AND A MOMENT LATER ON THE SURFACE OF THE STRANGE WORLD!
HIGHLY CIVILIZED, EH, MR. SPOCK? WITH BONE NECKLACES AND SKULL HELMETS? THEY LOOK LIKE A PACK OF BLOODY CANNIBALS!
BUN GUCHAR! RANI GUCHAR!

REMARKABLE, CAPTAIN! MY INSTRUMENTS SHOWED EVERY SIGN OF A HIGH CULTURE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DIDN'T READ YOUR DATA! THEY THINK THEY'RE A BAND OF PRIMITIVES!
THEN, ATOP THE STEPS...
WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME, LADS! ALL THE LEAST MODERN CONVENIENCES!
THEY'RE INVITING US TO TAKE A WALK UP THOSE STEPS!
STRANGELY, TERRACED... LEVELS AT ODD POINTS!
TRUE! DOESN'T SEEM EVEN A PRIMITIVE ENGINEERING PURPOSE TO IT!
STRIPPED OF THEIR WEAPONS AND COMMUNICATORS, THEY ARE LOCKED AWAY!
WELL, I'LL BE A VULCAN PURPLE MONKEY! IT'S A DRAWBRIDGE!... AND THE ONLY EXIT IS ONE LONG DROP... STRAIGHT DOWN!
A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL OF SOME SORT, YOU SUPPOSE?
PERHAPS... DRAWN BY SOME POOR MAN ABOUT TO DIE!

THEY'VE LEFT US SOME FOUL SMELLING MUSH! (SNIFF)...ARRGH! IT'S WORSE THAN ME OWN NATIVE HAGGIS!
BUT SOONER OR LATER WE'LL LEARN TO EAT IT! SO IT MIGHT AS WELL BE... SOONER!
IT'S NOT ONLY AS AWFUL AS YOU SAID, SCOTTY... IT'S WORSE! BUT WHERE'S THE CHOICE?
THERE IS ONE CHOICE..STARVATION! AND OUR FRIEND WITH THE ARISTOCRATIC PALATE SEEMS TO BE TAKING IT!
1-2-3... 1-2-3- 4-5-6...
I...I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S COUNTIN' THE STEPS! AND WE'VE BEEN HERE LESS THAN A DAY!
THE STEPS ARE IN SETS OF THREE, SEVEN AND TWENTY-ONE! NOW, CAPTAIN, PLEASE OBSERVE THOSE SYMBOLS!
I DON'T GET... HOLD IT!... THREE CIRCLES, SEVEN DASHES AND...YES TWENTY-ONE DOTS
BOTH TOTAL 31! YOU WILL ALSO OBSERVE THAT THERE ARE 31 BARS ON THE CELL DOOR ...
NOW, GENTLEMEN... TAKE UP YOUR BOWLS AND STRIKE BARS 3, 10 AND 31!


MORE AMUSED THAN DETERMINED, THE THREE SPACE TRAVELERS TAKE THE BOWLS IN HAND, AND...
WHOK WHOK
SUDDENLY, THERE IS A WHIRRING CLANKING NOISE!
I BELIEVE SPOCK'S "MADNESS" HAS PROVED WORTH THE INVESTMENT!
AYE! THE THING REALLY WAS A CODE! IT OPENED THE WALL! YOU GET THE FUNNY-NOTION-AWARD-OF-THE-YEAR, MR. SPOCK!
CLANK CLANK
AND THESE WOULD BE THE GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE BEEN PLAYING GAMES WITH US! YOU SEE, MR. SCOTT... NO BONE NECKLACES OR SKULL HELMETS!
THAT WHOLE THING WAS A PUT ON?
SO IT WOULD SEEM, MR. SCOTT! BUT...TO WHAT PURPOSE?...HMM?

I AM THE GRAND RIZA, SACRED AND ORDAINED LEADER OF OUR PEOPLE! LONG HAVE WE AWAITED YOUR COMING, MR. SPOCK!...IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL YOU?
Y-YES! BUT YOU SAY YOU HAVE WAITED FOR... ME?
INDEED! FOR DID YOU NOT SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF IKOR...BY WHICH YOU WOULD BE REVEALED TO US?
THE RIDDLE OF...THAT TRICK WITH THE STEPS AND BARS?
SO IT SEEMS!
OTHER STRANGERS LIVED AND DIED IN THAT CELL WITHOUT DISCOVERING THE SECRET! OTHERS TOOK MONTHS! YOU DID IT IN SECONDS!
BUT PRECISELY WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?
IT MEANS THAT WHEN WE LEAVE THIS WORLD-OF-THE-DYING-SUN, YOU SHALL BE THE NEW... WOTAM!
ALL BOW TO THE GREAT WOTAM!
IF THE GRAND RIZA IS THEIR TOP MAN... WHAT'S A WOTAM?
SOMETHING TELLS ME IT'S THEIR EQUIVALENT OF... GOD!

LET ME EXPLAIN!..I AM RIZA-ONE, OF THE TEN RIZAS... OUR RULING BODY! GIVERS OF LAW, JUDGES OF ALL MORTALS AND PROTECTORS OF THE... WOTAM!
BUT WHAT IS THIS... WOTAM?
THE WOTAM IS THE REPOSITORY OF ALL KNOWLEDGE! THE LIGHT OF OUR LIVES! BUT, COME... I WILL SHOW YOU!
THAT'S SOMEBODY I WANT TO SEE!
THROUGH A MAZE OF GREAT TUNNELS THEY MOVE, WITH EACH NEW VAULT GUARDED BY HEAVILY ARMED WARRIORS! FINALLY...
THIS IS THE ILLUSTRIOUS ONE! WITHIN IT LIES ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS ON OUR WORLD! EVERY PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE IS CONTAINED HEREIN! WE HAVE BUT TO ASK A QUESTION...
ALL IS ANSWERED BY... THE **WOTAM!**
QUEEP! PITOCK PITOCK
WHIRRRR...
CAPTAIN! IT... IT... IT'S THE GREAT GRANDDADDY OF ALL... **COMPUTERS!**

QUESTION? WHAT KIND OF QUESTION?
ANY AT ALL! FROM ...HOW TO MAKE A SHOE...TO HOW WE WILL ESCAPE FROM OUR DYING WORLD!
A.... SHOE?
YES...I CAUGHT THAT TOO, CAPTAIN!
RIZA-ONE, IF I AM NOT TOO IMPOLITE, MAY I ASK A FEW QUESTIONS OF YOU?
WHAT IS THE HALF LIFE OF THE ELEMENT U-235?
I'M SURE I DO NOT KNOW!
PERHAPS SOMETHING SIMPLER... THE FORMULA FOR WATER?
THAT IS QUITE UNKNOWN TO ME AS WELL!
NOR IS IT KNOWN TO ANYONE ELSE ON OUR WORLD! WE HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH THINGS WHEN WE CAN ASK **WOTAM**!
INCREDIBLE! AN ADVANCED WORLD WHERE NOBODY HAS THE SLIGHTEST CONCEPT OF SCIENCE!
THERE WERE GREAT SCIENTISTS HERE ONCE WHO BUILT THE WOTAM! BUT NOW THEIR SCIENCE AND THE WOTAM ITSELF, HAVE BECOME A RELIGION!
AND EVEN THE HIGH PRIESTS ARE IGNORANT! NO WONDER THEY WERE AWED BY YOUR INSTANT SOLUTION OF THEIR RIDDLE!

UPON RETURNING TO THE GREAT ASSEMBLY HALL, THE GRAND RIZA CONTINUES THE TALE!
OUR SCIENTIST-ANCESTORS LEFT US **WOTAM...** AND SHIPS TO ESCAPE THIS WORLD! BUT THEY COULDN'T KNOW THAT WE COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT WOTAM BY THEN!
BUT OUR SHIPS CANNOT HOLD **WOTAM!** THEN WOTAM GAVE THE ANSWER...A WAY TO EXPAND A LIVING BRAIN TO HOLD ALL WOTAM'S KNOWLEDGE!
AND YOU CHOSE MR. SPOCK? WHY?
OUR CRANIUMS ARE TOO SMALL TO EXPAND SUFFICIENTLY! AND THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH OF THE RARE ELEMENT NEEDED TO COMPLETE **ONE** OPERATION!
WOTAM ASSURES US THAT ONCE THE OPERATION IS REVERSED, YOU WILL BE NORMAL... BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE IT!
I UNDERSTAND! BUT WITHOUT IT, YOUR ENTIRE CULTURE WILL BE LOST FOREVER! I CAN ONLY... AGREE!
PERHAPS AFTER MORE... STUDY, MR. SPOCK!
CAPTAIN, THERE IS NO TIME... IT MUST BE **NOW!**
AND SO, SOME HOURS LATER!
IN THE NAME OF THE GREAT WOTAM...
FOR THE THIRD TIME, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO CHANCE THIS, MR. SPOCK?
I AM SURE, CAPTAIN!

STAR TREK
MR. ORACLE
PART TWO
ROGUE SPOCK!
CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENTAL: THE "OPERATION" LASTED SOME THREE HOURS. MR. SPOCK WAS IN NO APPARENT PAIN OR DANGER. BUT THE REST OF US COULD ONLY GAPE IN AMAZEMENT AND FEAR AS THE RAY PROCESS ENDED!
MR. SPOCK... ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT YOU, SPOCK!
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, DOCTOR... YES, CAPTAIN, EXCEPT FOR A DULL, THROBBING HEADACHE!
AYE! WITH A HEAD THAT SIZE, IT MUST BE THE HEADACHE TO END ALL HEADACHES!

WE ADVISE THAT YOU SLEEP ONE ENTIRE DAY, OH, LIVING WOTAM!
I HAVE NO CHOICE! I AM FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
THEN, AS THE OTHER ENTERPRISE OFFICERS TOUR THE GREAT CITY!
SPOCK WAS RIGHT ABOUT THEIR BEING HIGHLY ADVANCED! LOOK AT THAT ARCHITECTURE!
YES, BUT NOW TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE!
NEXT TO THAT MAGNIFICENT TOWER, A CRUMBLING WRECK WHICH THEY CAN'T REPAIR!
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY TECHNICIANS OR REPAIR-MEN, SO EVERYTHING GOES TO **WOTAM** FOR THE ANSWERS! AND A LOT NEVER GETS DONE!
ABANDONED VEHICLES EVERYWHERE! A WORLD WITHOUT MECHANICS, PLUMBERS OR CARPENTERS!
A MAN OF MY TALENTS COULD MAKE A FORTUNE!
OR BE TRIED FOR WITCHCRAFT... IN A WORLD WHERE SCIENCE IS HOLY!
THEN, AS THEY LOOK IN ON THE PATIENT!
M-MR. SPOCK! WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE SLEEPING!
YOU MEAN, YOU **HOPED** I WOULD, CAPTAIN, SO THAT WHILE I SLEPT, YOU COULD STEAL THE TREASURES OF **MY PEOPLE**!

MR. SPOCK, ARE YOU INSANE?
NO! BUT I AM SOMETHING MUCH MORE DANGEROUS TO YOU! I AM THE REPOSITORY OF ALL KNOWLEDGE!
AND WITH ALL THE WOTAM WITHIN ME, I CAN SEE THAT YOU SPACE TRAVELERS MEAN TO ENSLAVE MY PEOPLE!
JIM! YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED? HE IDENTIFIES COMPLETELY WITH THIS WORLD NOW!
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY WOTAM MIGHT BE SUSPICIOUS OF OUR INTENTIONS BUT YOU KNOW US, MR. SPOCK!
DO I, EARTHMAN? DID I EVER... REALLY?
IT'S USELESS! THAT MASS OF INFORMATION THEY POURED INTO HIS EXPANDED BRAIN HAS COMPLETELY BURIED THE EGO WE CALLED...SPOCK!
YOU ARE RIGHT, EARTHMAN! THE SPOCK YOU KNEW NO LONGER EXISTS... TO PROTECT YOU!
GUARDS... SEIZE THEM!

IN ANOTHER SECOND, THE BATTLE IS JOINED!
IT IS, EH? YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR TUNE IF ONE OF THOSE ELECTRO-CARBINES CATCHES YOU BETWEEN THE EYES! OWWW!
IT'S LIKE BATTLING CHILDREN... (ARRRGH!)
FINISH THEM OFF AS FAST AS (UGHH) AS YOU CAN... THEN WE.. (HUHH) MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
WHAT ABOUT SPOCK? (OWFF!)
ONE THING AT A TIME!
ENOUGH! RELEASE THE SORGHI!... ALL OF THEM!
GENTLEMEN, I THINK IT IS... SURRENDER TIME!
SNARRRR

SHORTLY...
NOW WE KNOW WHAT THEIR PRISON CELLS ARE **REALLY** LIKE! NOT THAT CRUDE HOAX THEY HAD US IN AT FIRST!
CRACKLE
ENERGY BEAMS FOR BARS! TOUCH ONE AND... **FRIED PRISONER**!
THE LATEST THING IN HIGH ENERGY BARRIERS! WOTAM DESIGNED IT, OF COURSE!
LOOK! THERE'S A HOLE OPENING!
CRACKLE
ZZIZZZ
SOMEONE'S COMING! LET'S TAKE HIM!
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN! I'LL GIVE THE LITTLE MURD-ERER A "FINGER NECKLACE!"
A MOMENT LATER...
LOOK WHO IT IS!... THE FELLOW THEY CALL NUMBER ONE!
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?
ARGGHH! C-CAN'T BREATHE!
AYE! AND I'LL SQUEEZE MORE THAN THE BREATH FROM YOU IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE!
BUT I CAME... (CHOKE) HERE... TO **JOIN**... YOU!

MR. SCOTT WILL RELEASE YOU, IF YOU EXPLAIN YOURSELF SUFFICIENTLY!
I AM RIZA ONE, NEXT IN LINE FOR GRAND RIZA! BUT NOW THAT THIS SPOCK IS THE LIVING WOTAM, I WILL NEVER **LEAD** MY PEOPLE!
I WANT YOU TO LEAVE HERE... WITH YOUR MR. SPOCK! BUT... I CANNOT LET MY WORLD **LOSE** ITS ENTIRE CULTURAL **HERITAGE**!
YOU CAN'T HAVE IT **BOTH** WAYS, RIZA ONE!
IF ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE IS IN SPOCK'S HEAD, YOU HAVE TO TAKE HIM WITH YOU!
IT DOES SEEM AN IMPOSSIBLE PROPOSITION! BUT LET'S WORRY ABOUT THAT ONLY AFTER WE'VE GAINED THE UPPER HAND!
IT WOULD TAKE ONE DEVIL OF A PLAN FOR US TO COMMAND AN ENTIRE PEOPLE... WITHOUT ONE WEAPON!
NO, SIR! IT WOULD TAKE ONLY ONE THING... **YOUR** POSSESSION OF THAT WHICH MY PEOPLE HOLD DEAREST... THE **LIVING WOTAM**!
AND I BELIEVE I KNOW HOW YOU CAN CAPTURE YOUR... SPOCK! IT IS DANGEROUS, BUT...
LIKE THE GAMBLER SAID ABOUT THE CROOKED ROULETTE GAME... IT'S THE ONLY WHEEL IN TOWN!

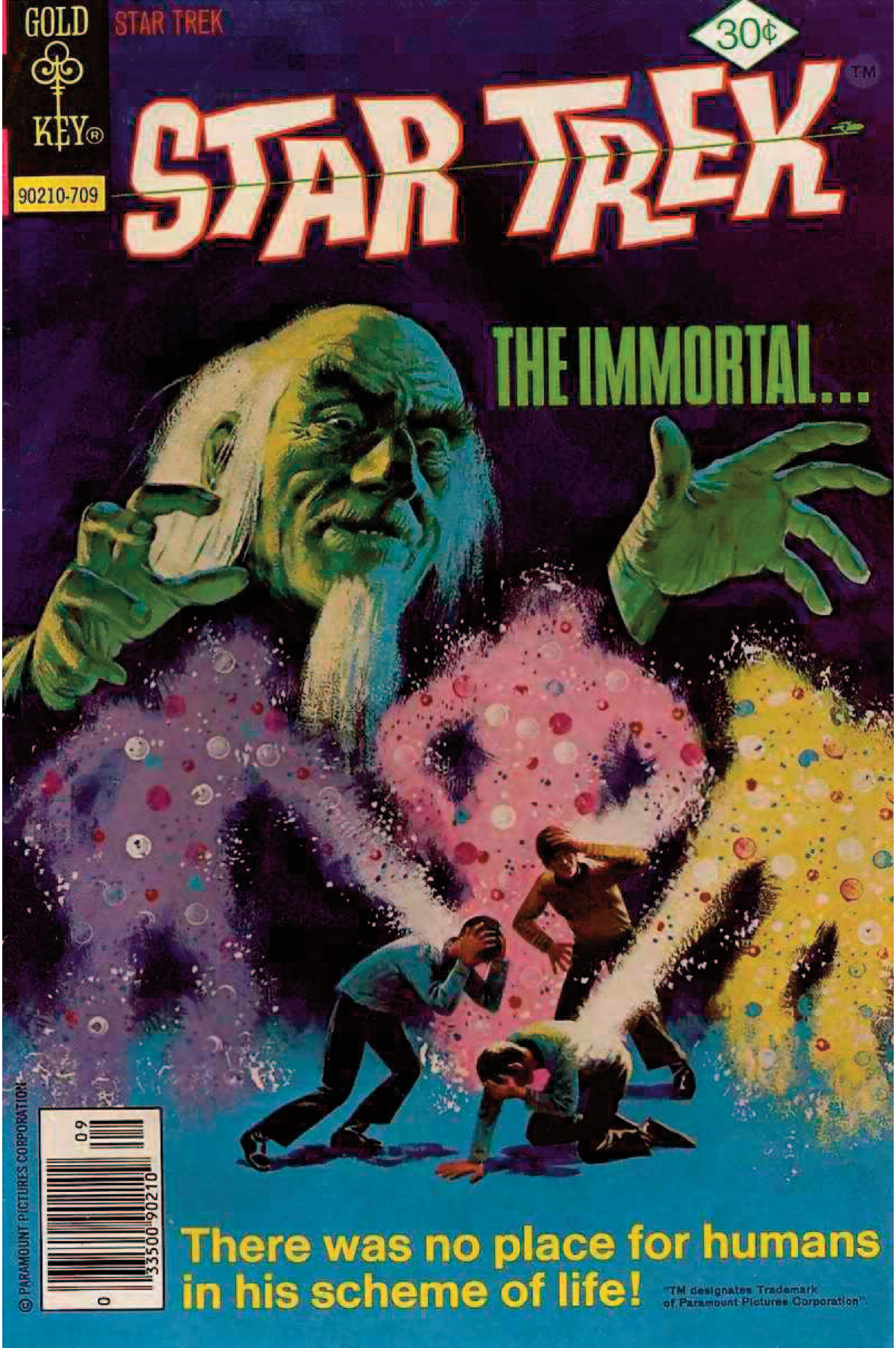
SOON...
A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, OH GREAT AND LIVING WOTAM!
A MOMENT... NO MORE! I AM PLANNING THE TOTAL DESIGN OF OUR NEW PLANET! A WORLD THAT OTHERS WILL MARVEL AT!
AS INSTRUCTED BY THE FORMER WOTAN, I HAVE HAD THREE SPACE SUIT MODELS CREATED FOR...
THE POSSIBILITY OF EMERGENCY REPAIRS IN SPACE! OF COURSE, SHOW THEM TO ME!
AT A COMMAND FROM RIZA ONE, THE PALACE SERVANTS ENTER WITH...
THEY SEEM VERY LARGE FOR YOUR PEOPLE!
YES, GREAT WOTAM! THE MATERIALS HAD TO BE VERY THICK TO WITHSTAND PUNCTURE IN SPACE!
THEN, AS THE SERVANTS LEAVE...
SORRY ABOUT THIS, SPOCK, BUT, UNTIL YOU'RE IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, WE HAVE NO CHOICE!
GUARDS! QUICKLY... HELP ME!

A MOMENT LATER, AS THE GUARDS RUSH IN...
ONE MORE STEP AND YOUR PRECIOUS WOTAM IS... DEAD!
STOP! HE MUST NOT HARM THE SACRED BEING OF WOTAM!
WOTAM, OR MR. SPOCK... WHATEVER YOU ARE... YOU WILL LEAVE HERE WITH THE OTHERS! YOUR LUST FOR POWER COULD ONLY MEAN SLAVERY FOR MY PEOPLE!
I ALLOWED YOU TO 'CAPTURE' ME TO REVEAL THE TREACHERY OF RIZA ONE!
OH, YOU DID, EH? AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET PAST THIS BLADE?
EEYAH
THE VERY ENERGY THAT EXPANDED MY BRAIN, ALSO LEFT ITS POWER WITHIN ME!
PICKING UP THE FALLEN DAGGER, THE MADDENED SPOCK ADVANCES...
AND NOW YOU SHALL... DIE!

MR. SPOCK! DON'T YOU KNOW US? WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS! I SAVED YOUR LIFE...MORE THAN ONCE ...AS YOU DID MINE!
I KNOW NOTHING OF YOU EXCEPT..... YOUR TREACHERY!
NOW YOU WILL PERISH BY THE AVENGING BLADE OF...WOTAM!
NO... WAIT!
MR. SPOCK! THIS IS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER...
BY THE POWERS INVESTED IN ME BY STARFLEET HEADQUARTERS, I COMMAND YOU TO STOP!
AND MR. SPOCK SUDDENLY "FREEZES" IN MID-AIR!
WH-WHAT HAVE I BEEN D-DOING?
KIRK MADE CONTACT WITH HIS VULCAN TRAINING...HIS TOTAL DEDICATION TO A JUST AND PROPER COMMAND!
QUICKLY, KIRK FILLS IN MR. SPOCK ON THE EVENTS THAT PASSED DURING HIS LENGTHY ABERRATION!
THEN THE ANSWER IS TO REPEAT THE PROCESS THAT INVESTED WOTAM'S KNOWLEDGE WITH-IN ME!...BUT SPLIT THE TOTAL AMONG, SAY, THREE OF THE RIZA!
IMPOSSIBLE! ...WITHOUT THAT RARE MINERAL THAT HAD TO BE USED ON YOU!

NO! I THINK IT CAN BE DONE BY USING AN ADVANCED FORM OF THE VULCAN MIND-MELD!
NOW, THESE ARE THE MATERIALS I WILL NEED... AND WE MUST HURRY!
SOON...
SPOCK, THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE YOU PROPOSE TO PUT THROUGH YOUR BODY COULD **KILL** YOU!
I AM AWARE OF THAT, DR. McCOY, BUT I COMPUTE THAT THERE IS A SUFFICIENT SAFETY MARGIN TO ACCEPT THE RISK!
AS MR. SPOCK'S HANDS CLOSE UPON THE ELECTRODES, NO SOUND IS DISCERNIBLE IN THE ROOM... NOT EVEN THE SOUND OF BREATHING!
AND NOW THE DANGEROUS VOLTAGE COURSES THROUGH HIS BODY!
AAYYAAAAA!

IN ONE SWIFT BUT TERRIFYING MOMENT, THE OPERATION IS COMPLETE!
CONGRATULATIONS, GENTLEMEN! YOU THREE RIZAS NOW CONTAIN ALL OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMS OF YOUR CIVILIZATION!
WITH IT, ON YOUR NEW WORLD, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REBUILD THE WOTAM AND REVERSE THE OPERATION!
SOME BUSY DAYS LATER...
THERE THEY GO... OFF TO TRANSPLANT A NEW WORLD!
YES, BUT IT WON'T BE THE SAME WORLD! THEY UNDERSTAND NOW WHAT THEIR DEPENDENCY ON WOTAM DID TO THEM! NOW, INSTEAD OF WORSHIPPING WOTAM, THEY WILL STUDY IT...AND LEARN!
LATER, ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
TELL THE TRUTH, MR. SPOCK... WHEN YOU HAD A HEAD LIKE A HOUSE AND YOU WERE CONDEMNING US ALL TO DEATH, WEREN'T YOU PUTTING US ON JUST A WEE BIT?
WAS I PRETENDING JUST TO GIVE YOU A FEW UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENTS? IT IS A SORRY VULCAN WHO APPRECIATES PRACTICAL JOKES!
SCOTTY MEANS WHEN YOU WERE UNDER WOTAM'S INFLUENCE, MAYBE YOU BECAME JUST A BIT... HUMAN!
BELIEVE ME, DR. McCOY, IF SUCH A TRAGEDY OVERCOMES ME, YOU SHALL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
30¢
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TM
THE IMMORTAL...
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There was no place for humans in his scheme of life!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 67:32.4... "En route to new Paris colony, the Enterprise has encountered unusual objects!"
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM, MR. SULU?
IT'S HARD TO SAY, CAPTAIN...
...FROM HERE THEY APPEAR TO BE A FORMATION OF GIANT PLANT PODS!
ANYTHING, MR. SPOCK?
SENSORS INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF A LIFE FORM RESIDING WITHIN THE POD, NEITHER ANIMAL, VEGETABLE OR MINERAL!
IN FACT, IT CONSISTS OF NO SOLID SUBSTANCE WHATSOEVER!
PURE ENERGY, MR. SPOCK?
CORRECT, CAPTAIN! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUMENTS THOSE "PODS" APPEAR TO BE TRANSPORTING A SUPER-INTELLIGENCE... WHILE THE PODS THEMSELVES ARE COMPLETELY INANIMATE!

TIE IN THE UNIVERSAL FREQUENCIES TRANSLATOR, LT. UHURU!
HAILING FREQUENCIES OPEN, SIR! TRANSLATOR TIED IN!
THIS IS CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK OF THE FEDERATION STARSHIP ENTERPRISE! WE MEAN YOU NO HARM...OUR INTENTIONS ARE PEACEFUL!... ANYTHING, LT.?
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN!
I AM CERTAIN THAT OUR COMMUNICATION IS BEING RECEIVED, BUT BY NO INSTRUMENT THAT I KNOW OF... IN FACT, THERE IS NOTHING MECHANICAL ABOARD THOSE VEHICLES!
AT LEAST NOTHING THAT WE UNDERSTAND, MR. SPOCK!
MAYBE WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING AT CLOSE RANGE! GET US IN ALONGSIDE THE LEAD POD, LT. SULU!
SHORTLY...
THE CLOSER WE COME TO THEM, CAPTAIN, THE MORE MY ANALYSIS HOLDS UP! THOSE CARRIERS SEEM TO BE LOADED WITH NOTHING BUT PURE, RAW ENERGY!

EEYOW-W
SPREEEUUUMM
NCC-1701
CAPTAIN KIRK! WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!... COMPLETE LOSS OF POWER!
BRIDGE TO ENGINEERING! SCOTTY!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR POWER, MR. SCOTT?
IT'S THOSE POD THINGS OUT THERE CAPTAIN! DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT I'VE GOT CIRCUIT BURN-OUTS EVERYWHERE! WE'RE RIGGING BY-PASS LEADERS NOW!
MOMENTS LATER...
ENGINEERING TO BRIDGE... YOU SHOULD BE GETTING POWER NOW, CAP'N!
AH-H-H... WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS!

HIGHLY UNORTHODOX! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUMENTS, IT WAS THAT POD-CRAFT ITSELF WHICH RETURNED OUR POWER...ONCE WE WERE REPELLED A SUFFICIENT DISTANCE!
SPORTING, MR. SPOCK!
SHOULD WE MAKE ANOTHER PASS AT IT, CAPTAIN?
WHOA! NOT UNTIL WE CAN LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT IT, MR. CHEKOV!...
IF WE TRIED AGAIN THEY MIGHT NOT BE SO KIND AS TO RECHARGE US!
THE PODS HAVE CHANGED COURSE, SIR...314 MARK 12!
BETA NIOBE III LIES ON 314 MARK 12! PARALLEL COURSE!..STAY WITH THEM, MR. SULU!
CAPTAIN, BETA NIOBE BOASTS THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN THIS QUADRANT OF THE GALAXY! THE ALIENS' PURPOSE SHOULD PROVE QUITE INTERESTING!
NO TIME TO SPECULATE ON THEIR INTENTIONS, MR. SPOCK! LT. UHURA, ALERT THE TRANSPORTER ROOM... MR. SPOCK, DR. McCOY WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE! MR. SULU, YOU HAVE THE CON!

PHASERS, GENTLEMEN! FIRING ON MY ORDERS ONLY! YOU WERE SAYING, MR. SPOCK?
THOSE 'BUNDLES' SERVE AS A POWER SOURCE FOR THE PODS, AND, I MIGHT ADD, THEY ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF IMMOBILIZING A STARSHIP!.... INCREDIBLE! THIS IS THE CENTRALOCUS OF THE INTELLIGENCE I SPOKE OF!
MR. SPOCK! DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
INDEED!
THOSE 'BUNDLES', AS YOU CALLED THEM, MR. SPOCK...
WHY...THEY'RE GROWING INTO HUMANOID BEINGS!
ONCE AGAIN, CAPTAIN, READINGS FLUCTUATING! I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT LOCOMOTION!
I SUGGEST WE FOLLOW WITH EXTREME CAUTION!
SSSIIIIZZZZZ
AGREED!
NOW WE'RE BEGINNING TO MAKE SOME SENSE!
ONE MUST ASSUME THAT THOSE BEINGS ARE HOSTILE, CAPTAIN!
YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT, MR. SPOCK!

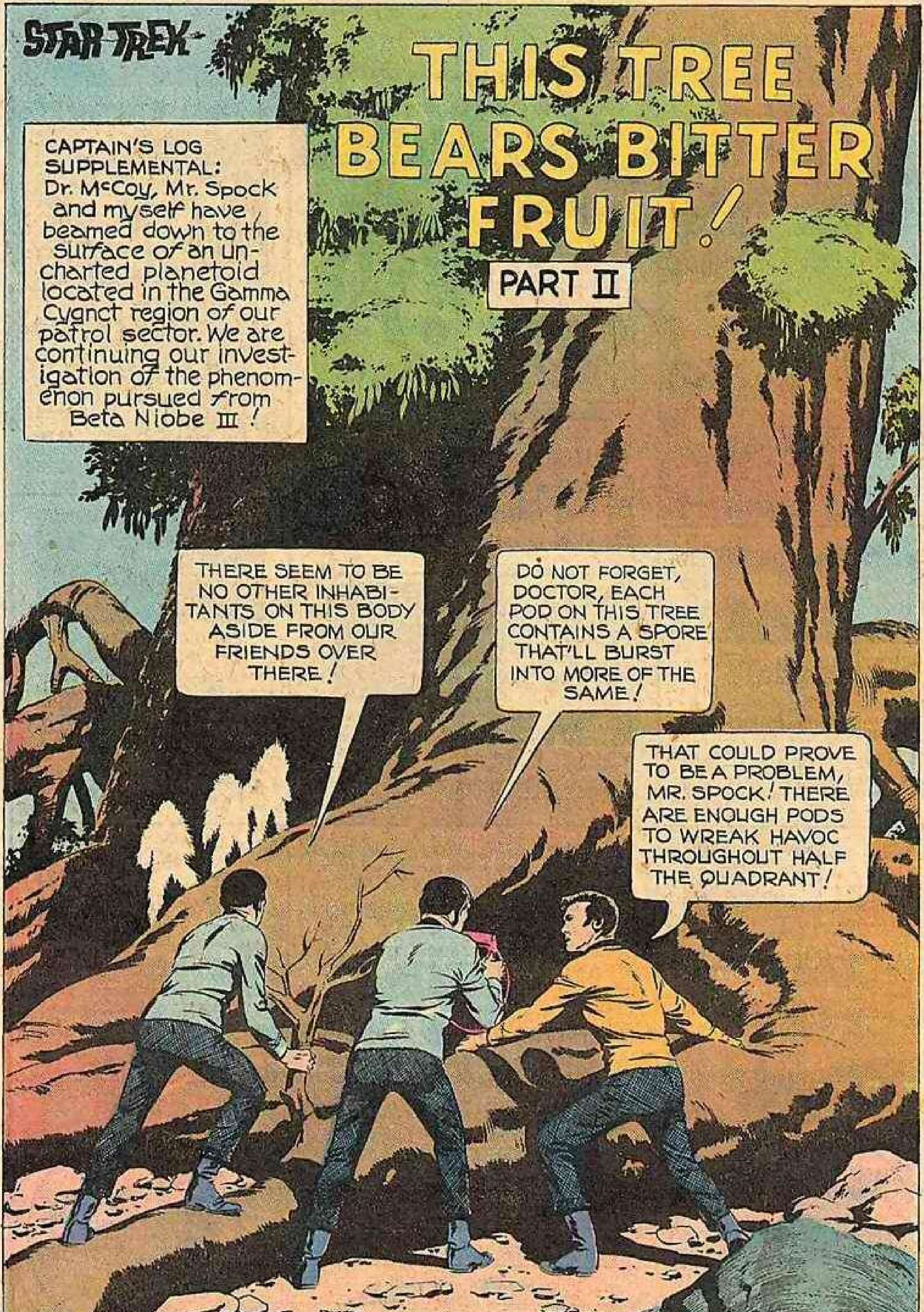
THEY ARE COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH!
EVIDENTLY THEY ARE TRANSFORMING CONVENTIONAL MATTER INTO A MORE DIGESTIBLE FORM OF ENERGY!
AGREED! DEFINITELY SOME FORM OF OSMOTIC PROCESS BASIC TO THEIR EXISTENCE
I RESIST KILLING THEM, CAPTAIN!
THEN WE MUST RENDER THEM IMMOBILE UNTIL WE CAN DISCOVER SOME WAY OF DEALING WITH THE CREATURES! SET PHASERS ON BASE CYCLE...PERHAPS THEY CAN BE STUNNED!
IT...IT EVIDENTLY UNDERSTOOD **SOMETHING!**
IT WAS THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY ONLY YOUR WEAPON... AND NOT YOU, TOO!
IN FACT, CAPTAIN, THEY SEEM TO BE GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO AVOID HARMING LIVING BEINGS!

QUITE SO, MR. SPOCK... HOWEVER, IN THE MEAN-TIME, IF THEY KEEP UP THIS GLUTTONOUS RAMPAGE, THEY COULD CONCEIVABLY MAKE LIFE EXTREMELY UNCOMFORT-ABLE!
THE OBVIOUS VISUAL EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THEIR APPETITES ARE MOMENTARILY SATIATED! THEY ARE HEADING BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
YOU SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THOSE CREATURES BETTER THAN I, MR. SPOCK! WOULD YOU MIND LETTING ME IN ON THE SECRET?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, CAPTAIN... IF WE'RE TO MAINTAIN TRACK OF THEM, WE MUST RETURN TO THE SHIP AT ONCE!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE, THREE TO BEAM UP, SCOTTY...ON THE DOUBLE!
AN INSTANT LATER...
CAPTAIN! SENSORS INDICATE THE CREATURES MOVING AWAY AT EXTREME WARP SPEED!
PREPARE TO LEAVE ORBIT IMMEDIATELY... LT. UHURA, INFORM STARFLEET COMMAND OF OUR SITUATION!
AYE AYE, SIR!

ALL SUBSPACE FREQUENCIES ARE JAMMED! I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO PIERCE THE INTERFERENCE!
SCWEEEEE
OUR FRIENDS ARE MAKING CERTAIN THAT THE GAME REMAINS EXCLUSIVE! ALL RIGHT THEN...
MR. CHEKOV, LOCK IN ON THE SOURCE OF INTERFERENCE! THAT IS OUR QUARRY! MR. SULU, KEEP US JUST WITHIN SENSOR RANGE! AHEAD WARP FACTOR 7!
LT. UHURA, DEPARTMENT HEADS WILL MEET WITH ME IN THE BRIEFING ROOM! THE CON IS YOURS, MR. SULU!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
ALL RIGHT, MR. SPOCK... SO WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND THEM! THE QUESTION IS WHERE ARE THEY LEADING US?
INSUFFICIENT DATA, CAPTAIN! I FOR ONE REFRAIN FROM HAPHAZARD SPECULATION! ONE THING, HOWEVER, IS FOR CERTAIN...
WHILE OBSERVING THE ENTITIES, I DID SOME SWIFT EXTRAPOLATING! ACCORDING TO MY ESTIMATES, THEY ARE AHEAD OF US ON THE EVOLUTIONARY SCALE BY SOME TWO MILLION YEARS!
YOU MEAN THEY'RE ON THE SAME EVOLUTIONARY PLATEAU AS THE ORGANIANS?
PRECISELY, DOCTOR!

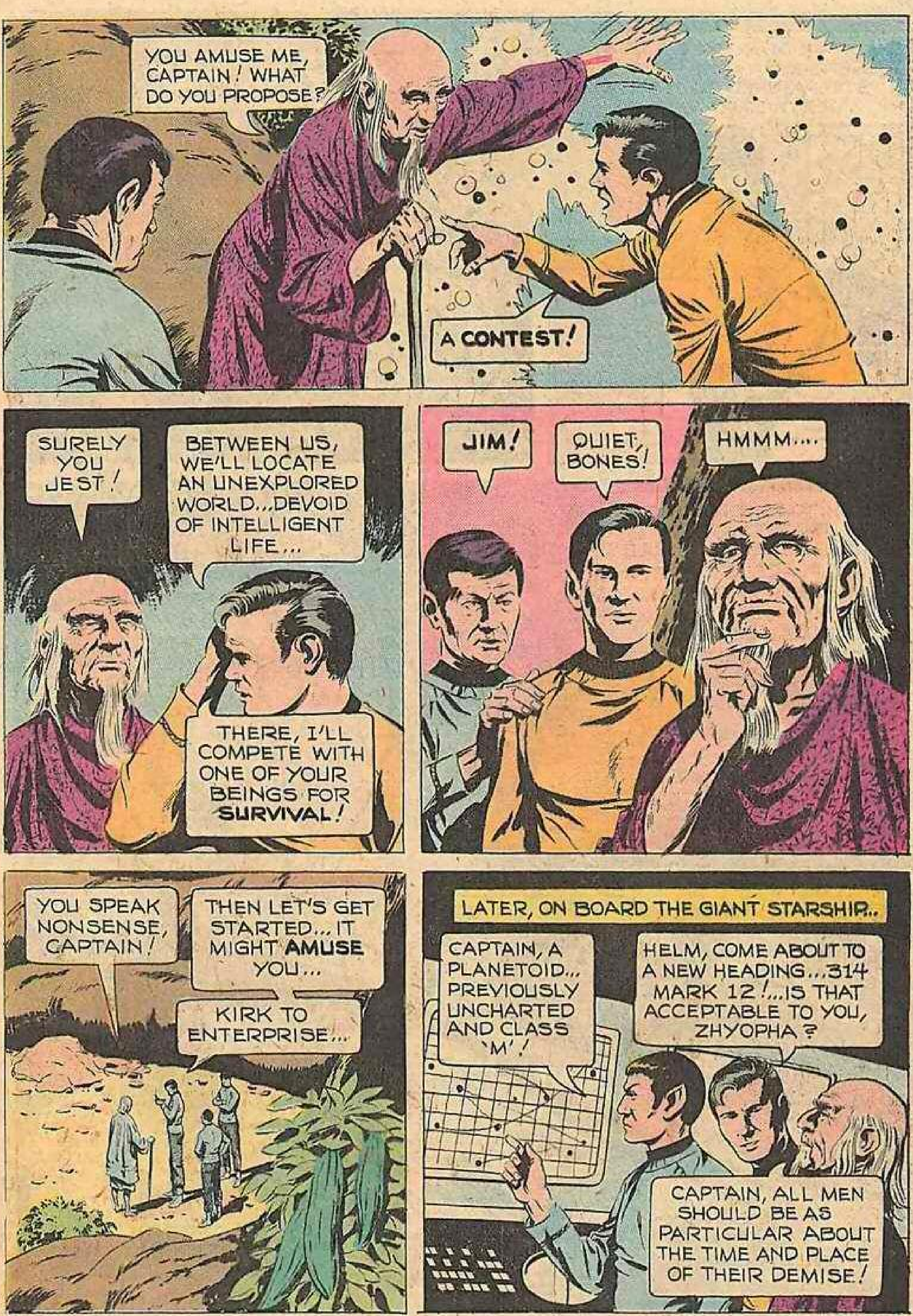
IN MANY WAYS THEY'RE VERY MUCH LIKE THE **LIGHTS OF ZETAR** WE ENCOUNTERED AT MEMORY ALPHA!
FUNDAMENTALLY CORRECT AS FAR AS WE KNOW! PURE ENERGY IS THE ULTIMATE FORM OF LIFE! IT NEEDS NO SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE NOR ANY PARTICULAR FOOD OR DRINK!
ENERGY-BEINGS ARE IN FACT, QUITE 'AT HOME' IN VIRTUALLY ANY ENVIRONMENT!
SPEAKING OF 'HOME', MR. SPOCK, AND CONSIDERING THEIR ADVANCED LEVEL OF EXISTENCE.....
BRIDGE TO CAPTAIN...
COMING UP FAST ON A CLASS 'M' PLANETOID, SIR! THE ALIENS ARE MAKING FOR THE SURFACE!
ASSUME STANDARD ORBIT, MR. SULU... ON MY WAY... KIRK OUT!
STATUS!

SOMETHING IS COMING INTO VIEW, CAPTAIN!
FASCINATING!
GREAT GALAXIES!
WHAT IS IT?
A TREE! HUNDREDS OF MILES HIGH!... GROWING MORE OF THOSE PODS!


STAR TREK
THIS TREE BEARS BITTER FRUIT!
PART II
CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENTAL: Dr. McCoy, Mr. Spock and myself have beamed down to the surface of an uncharted planetoid located in the Gamma Cygnct region of our patrol sector. We are continuing our investigation of the phenomenon pursued from Beta Niobe III!
THERE SEEM TO BE NO OTHER INHABITANTS ON THIS BODY ASIDE FROM OUR FRIENDS OVER THERE!
DO NOT FORGET, DOCTOR, EACH POD ON THIS TREE CONTAINS A SPORE THAT'LL BURST INTO MORE OF THE SAME!
THAT COULD PROVE TO BE A PROBLEM, MR. SPOCK! THERE ARE ENOUGH PODS TO WREAK HAVOC THROUGHOUT HALF THE QUADRANT!

NAY!.. NOT WREAK HAVOC, BUT FUL-FILL THE ULTIMATE DESTINY OF THAT WHICH YOU CALL THE GALAXY!
WHO...?
WHAT THE DEVIL??
I AM ZHYOPHA! LONE INHABITANT OF THIS, THE FIRST WORLD IN THE FIRST GALAXY OF THE FIRST UNIVERSE!
NEITHER BORN NOR FATED TO DIE, MY EXISTENCE IS ETERNAL!
IT WAS I WHO SEEDED THIS... THE TRUE TREE OF LIFE!
MULTIPLY EVERY GRAIN OF SAND IN THE GALAXY BY EVERY PARTICLE OF DUST BY EVERY DROP OF WATER, AND YOU STILL WILL NOT HAVE CALCULATED HOW LONG THE TREE HAS GROWN!
BONES, I WANT A PHYSIOLOGICAL READING... ON WHO OR WHAT THAT IS!
NOW, AT LAST, IT BEGINS TO RIPEN!
COMPLETELY HUMAN, JIM!
ITS FRUITS SHALL NURTURE THE UNIVERSE, EONS... NAY, MILLENIA AHEAD OF THEIR APPOINTED TIMES!
WHEREVER THERE'S LIFE, YOUR CREATIONS WOULD DESTROY IT!
LIFE, AS SO APTLY DEFINED BY ONE OF YOUR OWN IS NO MORE OR LESS THAN THE SURVIVAL OF THE STRONG! THE WEAK, CAPTAIN, SHALL MERELY FALL BY THE WAYSIDE!

MAY I REMIND YOU, SIR, THAT EVOLUTION IS MOST PROPERLY DETERMINED BY NATURE...NOT MEN!
I AM NO ORDINARY MAN!... I CONTROL THE DESTINY OF THE SPECIES!
THEN, AS IF IN PUNCTUATION OF ZHYOPHA'S MAD PROCLAMATION...
S-SUDDENLY... DIZZY....
IT WOULD APPEAR... CAPTAIN... THAT ZHYOPHA'S FAMILIARS...ARE DRAWING OUR OWN VITAL LIFE FORCES!
EXCELLENT, MR. SPOCK! THEIR MERE PROXIMITY IS ENOUGH TO DRAIN YOUR VERY SOUL...IF I SO WILL IT!
GO AHEAD, ZHYOPHA... KILL US! THE HASTE... WITH WHICH YOU DESTROY US...BETRAYS YOUR COWARDICE!...BUT I HAVE A SUGGESTION!


YOU AMUSE ME, CAPTAIN! WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?
A CONTEST!
SURELY YOU JEST!
BETWEEN US, WE'LL LOCATE AN UNEXPLORED WORLD...DEVOID OF INTELLIGENT LIFE...
THERE, I'LL COMPETE WITH ONE OF YOUR BEINGS FOR SURVIVAL!
JIM!
QUIET, BONES!
HMMM....
YOU SPEAK NONSENSE, CAPTAIN!
THEN LET'S GET STARTED... IT MIGHT AMUSE YOU...
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE...
LATER, ON BOARD THE GIANT STARSHIP..
CAPTAIN, A PLANETOID... PREVIOUSLY UNCHARTED AND CLASS 'M'!
HELM, COME ABOUT TO A NEW HEADING...314 MARK 12!...IS THAT ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, ZHYOPHA?
CAPTAIN, ALL MEN SHOULD BE AS PARTICULAR ABOUT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THEIR DEMISE!

AS TRANSPORTER CIRCUITS ENERGIZE, A LONE FIGURE IS DISPATCHED TO THE NEWLY DISCOVERED WORLD!
...WHILE ANOTHER STREAKS THROUGH SPACE TO THE SAME DESTINATION!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE... TRANSPORT WITHOUT MISHAP... TELL MR. SULU THIS PLACE IS A HORTICULTURIST'S DREAM... AS FOR PRIMITIVE ANIMAL LIFE...
SQUAARRK
ENTERPRISE... STAND BY!!
SQUAARRKKK

SPLAT
FRZZZ
SQUAARK
THEY'RE COMING IN LIKE SO MANY SHARKS!
ENTERPRISE... ENTERPRISE!
SOMETHING'S BLOCKING TRANSMISSION!
THE ALIEN 'BEING'... IT'S DISINTEGRATING THOSE CREATURES INTO ENERGY ON WHICH IT FEEDS!
GOOD LORD!
BETTER AND BETTER! AND NOW IT'S TIME TO PLAY A HUNCH!

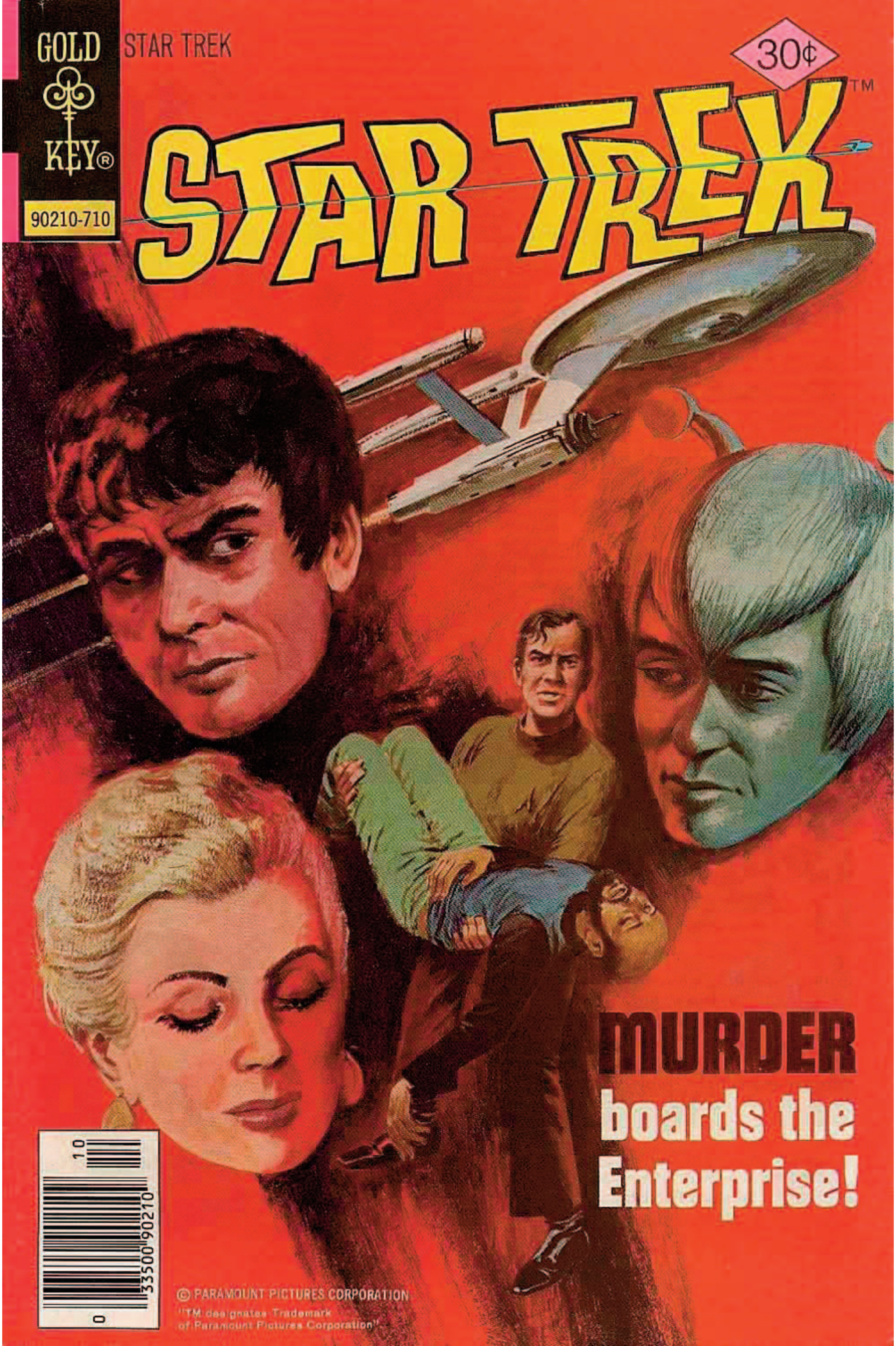
KIRK WASTES HIS TIME ON FOOLISH BRAVADO!
PATIENCE, ZHYOPHA!
TENSELY, THE HOURS CREEP BY, AS....
THE MORE THE ALIEN CONSUMES, THE GREATER HIS NEED!
JUST AS I CONJECTURED! EGO HAS IMPAIRED ZHYOPHA'S VISION, AND IN HIS MAD POWER-PLAY HE HAS NEGLECTED TO CONSIDER **ALL THE POSSIBILITIES!**
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE...
...REQUEST ZHYOPHA DISPATCH REMAINING ENERGY BEINGS TO PLANETOID SURFACE!
EH ??

YOUR CAPTAIN IS A FOOL!
WHZZZZZZZZZZZ
HERE THEY COME! NOW WE LET NATURE TAKE IT'S COURSE!
BON APETIT!
AND AS MIGHTY 'APPETITES' CONSUME EVERY LAST ENERGY SOURCE...

THEY'RE FRANTIC! DO YOU HEAR, ZHYOPHA? YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST CARD... AND LOST!.. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE BUT ROCK... THEY'RE STARVING TO DEATH, ZHYOPHA... STARVING!
STOP THE CONTEST!..I CONCEDE...CONCEDE!
THEY'VE COLLIDED WITH EACH OTHER...AND THE COMBINED ENERGIES HAVE DESTROYED THEM!
BAB-A-BOOM
NOOOO

MR. SPOCK, HAVE ZHYOPHA ESCORTED FROM THE BRIDGE IF YOU PLEASE ... SECURITY CONFINEMENT!
AYE, SIR!... ARE YOU READY TO COME ABOARD, CAPTAIN?
I BELIEVE I'VE HAD ENOUGH EXERCISE, MR. SPOCK... BEAM ME UP!!
SOON...
MR. SULU, TAKE US OUT OF ORBIT, PLEASE... WARP FACTOR 2!
AYE, AYE, SIR... I'LL BE GLAD TO!
OUT OF ORBIT, CAPTAIN!

LATER...
IT'S PAST TIME YOU ATE SOME-THING, SIR!
AHEAD FULL, MR. SULU!
WHAT THE DEVIL...? GREEN LEAVES?
DIETARY SALAD, SIR! DR. McCOY ORDERED YOUR DIET CARD CHANGED... I THOUGHT YOU KNEW!
I HAVE THE DISTURBING FEELING I'VE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS BEFORE ...IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
YOUR, UH... WEIGHT WAS UP A COUPLE OF POUNDS.. AGAIN.. REMEMBER?
IF YOU ARE NOT SO INCLINED, CAPTAIN, I HAVE EATEN NOTHING SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
30¢
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90210-710
MURDER
boards the
Enterprise!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 5716.4. Having assumed standard orbit, planet M 317. Our purpose, transport Professor Patrick Moore, director of the Federation survey team here, to the Interstellar Geophysical Conference on Beta Aurigae.
WELCOME, GENTLEMEN! WELCOME TO M 317, OR SHOULD I SAY, "MOORE'S PLANET"?... AT ANY RATE, WILLIAM TERRENS AT YOUR SERVICE!
CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK, STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE... MR. SPOCK, MY FIRST OFFICER!
SIR!
I'M PROFESSOR MOORE'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANT! A PLEASURE!
THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE MET YOU HIMSELF, BUT HE'S OCCUPIED BY THE FIRE FALLS! BUT PLEASE, GENTLEMEN... WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? DO COME IN... ALLOW ME TO OFFER YOU REFRESHMENT!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PROF. MOORE AGAIN! A DELIGHTFUL GENTLEMAN... YOU'LL ENJOY HIM, SPOCK!
OH? I WASN'T AWARE THAT YOU...
I WAS A LIEUTENANT ON THE 'FARRAGUT' AT THE TIME... PROF. MOORE WAS 'PROSPECTING' FOR THE AMERICAN CONTINENT INSTITUTE!
A BRILLIANT RESEARCH SCIENTIST! HIS PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF SILICONE BASED LIFE ON JANUS IV ROCKED THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!
NO PUN INTENDED, I ASSURE YOU, MR. TERRENS!
PROF. MOORE WILL BE FLATTERED! OUT HERE, ARDENT ADMIRERS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!
MR. TERRENS, I'M CURIOUS AS TO THE ADDITION OF AN ARBOR-ETUM TO A GEOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION!
STRICTLY NON-OFFICIAL! REMINDS ONE OF EARTH... GREEN, LOVELY!...WE CALL THESE SAPLINGS "TOJUFU"!
IF MEMORY SERVES CORRECT, TOJUFU WAS THE HEROINE OF SEVERAL OPH-IUCAN FAIRY TALES!
"AMBROSIAN BELLUS"! SHE SWEETENED THE AIR WITH EACH PASSING FOOTSTEP...LOVELY! HOWEVER, THE ENTER-PRISE HAS A SCHEDULE TO MAINTAIN!

"OF COURSE, CAPTAIN, ON TO THE 'FIRE FALLS.' THEN, JUST BEYOND...
THE GREAT RAINBOW EXPANSE!
WOULD I BE TERRIBLY MISTAKEN IN ASSUMING THAT THE COLOR PATTERNS ARE CAUSED BY DEPOSITS OF MAGNETIC ORES?
TERRIBLY! THE COLORS ARE CAUSED BY VAST COLONIES OF BIVMITES... TINY INSECTS THAT REACT TO CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE, AIR PRESSURE, ETC... MUCH LIKE HALO FISH!
GENTLEMEN... MOORE'S FIRE FALLS!

MOMENTS LATER...
JAMES!
HE'S A CAPTAIN!.. A STAR SHIP CAPTAIN! DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE TO ESCORT ME TO BETA AURIGAE... WONDERFUL!
MY FIRST OFFICER, MR. SPOCK!
A VULCAN... FASCINATING!
SO, JAMES!...MY LOCAL WONDERS... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
VERY IMPRESSIVE, PROFESSOR!
HOWEVER, I WASN'T AWARE THAT YOU WERE A FLEDGLING HORTICULTURIST!
OH! HA-HA... THE TOJUFU!
AROMATUS EXTRAORDINAIRE!
AH! BUT THEIR PERFUME IS THE LEAST EXTRA-ORDINARY THING ABOUT THEM, MR. SPOCK!
NOT TO THE COMMERCIALLY MINDED, PROFESSOR... BELIEVE ME!

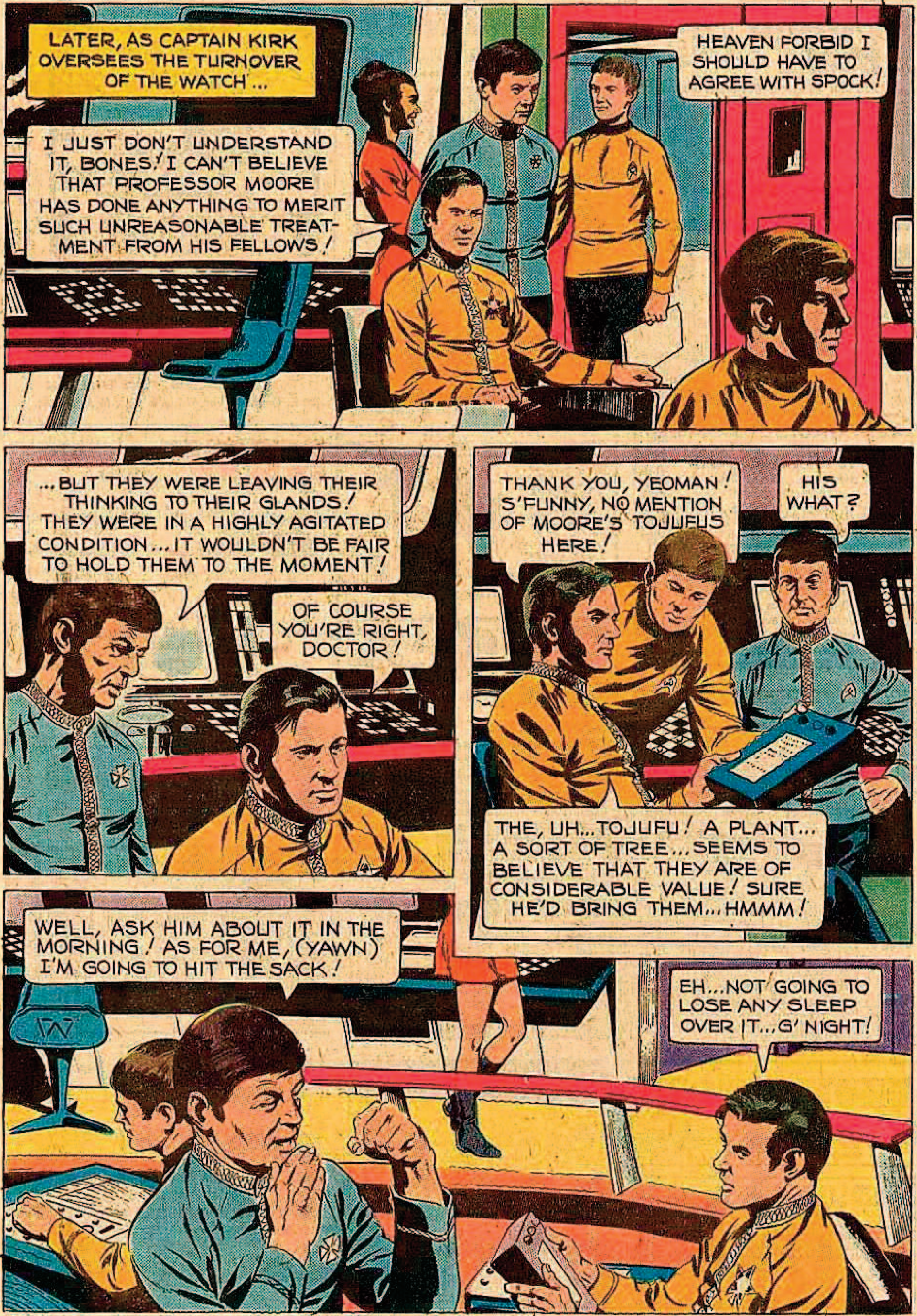
AT ANY RATE, I'VE BEEN STUDYING AND CLASSIFYING THE LOCAL PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE FOR OVER A YEAR NOW AND BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE! THE PAPER I DELIVER AT AURIGAE SHOULD OPEN A FEW EYES!
I ENVY YOU, PROFESSOR...I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK TO CIVILIZATION IN OVER TWO YEARS!
IT'S SETTLED THEN! YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO BETA AURIGAE!
JAMES... TO THAT SHIP OF YOURS... LET'S GO!
THERE ARE TWO OTHER SCIENTISTS BOUND FOR THE CONFERENCE WITH US!
DR. STOY AARAKA AND PROFESSOR EMILIE BOWERS!
EH??
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 5716.7 On course, on schedule Beta Aurigae
NCC-1701

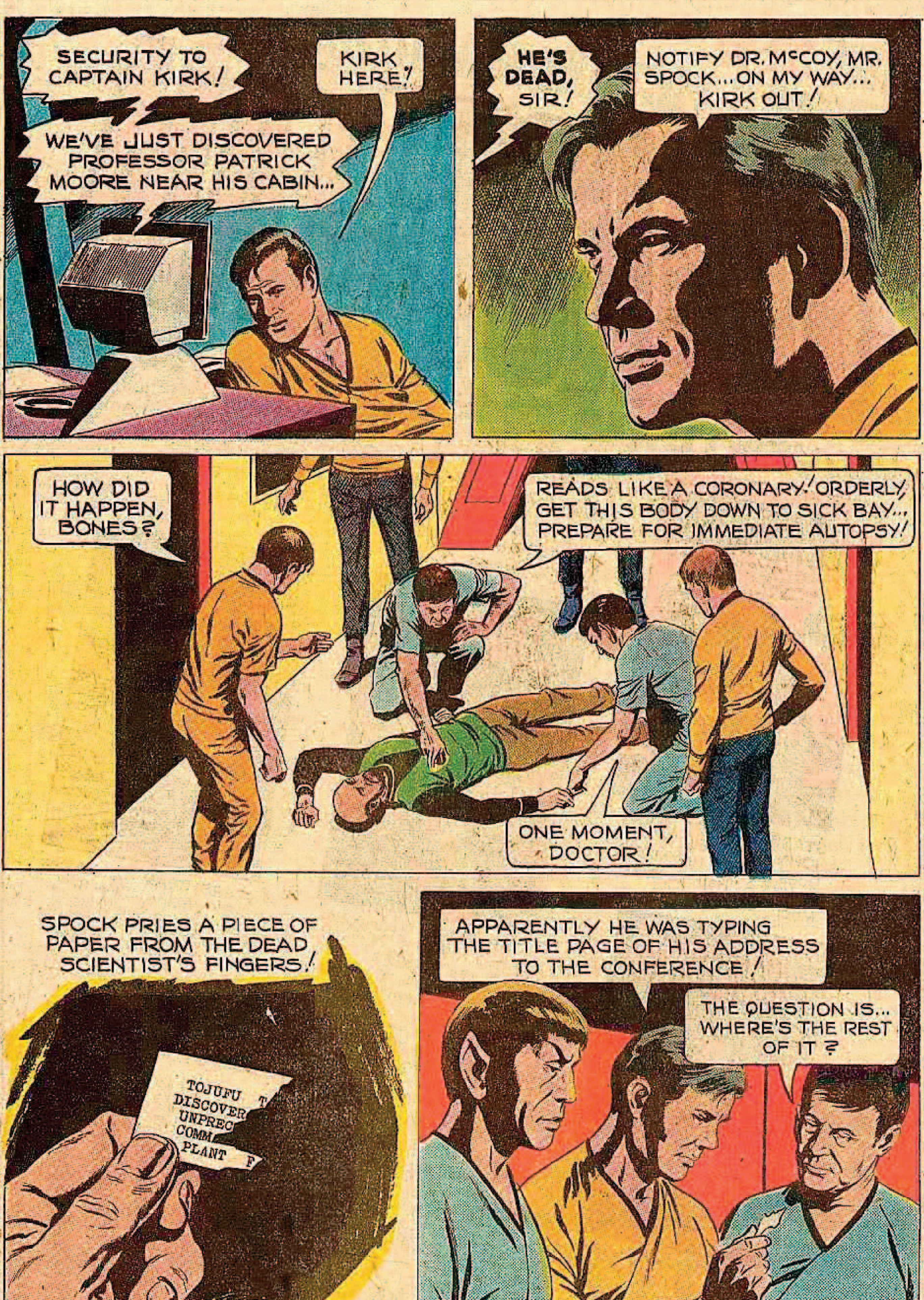
REPORTED DEHUMANIZING ELEMENTS? WELL, OF COURSE! THE STAR SHIP IS A MACHINE, YOU'VE GOT TO EXPECT SOME DEHUMANIZING ELEMENTS... BUT IF I WERE TO FILE A REPORT WITH U.E.S.P.A....
...I'D HAVE TO STATE JUST THE OPPOSITE! THE FACT IS THAT PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE STAR SHIP...AT LEAST THE ENTERPRISE, ARE HEALTHY! YOU CAN'T...
SO, PATRICK... YOU LOOK WELL!
EM-EMILIE... A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
REALLY, PATRICK?
I READ YOUR PAPER ON LIGHT SENSITIVE FUNGI... V-VERY FINE!
OH?...AM I TO BE FLATTERED, PATRICK? EXCUSE ME, DR. McCOY!
UHH... CERTAINLY, MISS...ER, PROFESSOR BOWERS!
WHAT THE DEVIL?!
I...I'M SORRY, DR. McCOY, I'D LIKE TO RETIRE TO MY CABIN! PERHAPS WE COULD CONTINUE MY TOUR AT S-SOME LATER DATE!

CLOUDED... I'M SO CLOUDED! WON'T SHE LEAVE ME ALONE? CAN'T SHE EVER LEAVE ME ALONE?
GOOD EVENING, PRECEPTOR MOORE!
WHO'S THERE?
AARAKA!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, PRECEPTOR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WAITING TO TELL YOU JUST WHAT I THINK OF YOU!
WAITING TO MAKE YOU FEEL THE PAIN.... THE ANGUISH... THE DESPAIR...
YOU'RE MAD!
WAITING TO MAKE YOU EXPERIENCE THE UTTER HOPELESSNESS!
NO!

PROF. BOWERS, WON'T YOU SIT TO MY RIGHT? IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT THE ENTERPRISE IS GRACED BY THE PRESENCE OF SUCH AN HONORED AND LOVELY WOMAN!
YOU ARE A GENTLEMAN, CAPTAIN! IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT I COME OUT OF THE LAB TO BE A WOMAN!
IS THAT A WARNING, EMILIE?
WELL, WE'RE ALL HERE.. EXCEPT PROF. MOORE!
I WONDER WHAT COULD BE KEEPING HIM? PUNCTUALITY IS HIS STRONGEST TRAIT... THAT AND **COLD OBJECTIVITY!**
I'M SURE YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, MISS BOWERS...
EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN SHALL I SERVE?
NOT YET, STEWARD... PROF. MOORE HASN'T ARRIVED!
SORRY I HELD THINGS UP...I BECAME INVOLVED IN PREPARING MY REPORT! AH, I'M HUNGRY AS A **SEHLAT!**
BUT MORE FOR **NOTORIETY** THAN NOURISH-MENT, EH, PATRICK?
WELL, PRO-FESSOR... WE'RE ALL INTERESTED AS TO THE NATURE OF YOUR REPORT! PERHAPS YOU...
GIVE IT UP, CAPTAIN... PATRICK NEVER GIVES ADVANCE REPORTS ON HIS WORK!

I CANNOT BLAME HIM, EMILIE...THE DECEITFUL ARE BREEDERS OF APPREHENSION!
DOCTOR AARAKA!
ALLOW ME TO REMIND YOU, DR. AARAKA, THAT YOU ARE A GUEST ONBOARD THE ENTERPRISE AND AS SUCH ARE LIABLE TO HER RULES AND REGULATIONS!... IF YOU CANNOT BE MORE CIVIL I WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE YOUR MEALS DELIVERED TO YOUR CABIN!
NEVER MIND, JAMES... IT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
NOT IMPORTANT?... NOT IMPORTANT?? IS A MAN'S CAREER DISAPPOINTMENT NOT IMPORTANT?
DR. AARAKA IS A BITTER MAN!
IF YOU TREATED STOY AS BADLY AS YOU TREATED ME, HE HAS GOOD REASON TO BE BITTER!
I DID ALL THAT I COULD TO SAVE HIS GRADE, EMILIE! THIS IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE...
GENTLEMEN... BENEATH THAT PLEASANT, INNOCENT, DECENT EXTERIOR WRITHES THE RESTLESS SOUL OF AN AMBITIOUS... AN AMBITIOUS...
THAT WILL BE ALL!


LATER, AS CAPTAIN KIRK OVERSEES THE TURNOVER OF THE WATCH ...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BONES! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT PROFESSOR MOORE HAS DONE ANYTHING TO MERIT SUCH UNREASONABLE TREATMENT FROM HIS FELLOWS!
HEAVEN FORBID I SHOULD HAVE TO AGREE WITH SPOCK!
...BUT THEY WERE LEAVING THEIR THINKING TO THEIR GLANDS! THEY WERE IN A HIGHLY AGITATED CONDITION... IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO HOLD THEM TO THE MOMENT!
OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR!
THANK YOU, YEOMAN! S'FUNNY, NO MENTION OF MOORE'S TOJUFUS HERE!
HIS WHAT?
THE, UH...TOJUFU! A PLANT... A SORT OF TREE... SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE! SURE HE'D BRING THEM... HMMM!
WELL, ASK HIM ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING! AS FOR ME, (YAWN) I'M GOING TO HIT THE SACK!
EH...NOT GOING TO LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT... G' NIGHT!


SECURITY TO CAPTAIN KIRK!
KIRK HERE!
WE'VE JUST DISCOVERED PROFESSOR PATRICK MOORE NEAR HIS CABIN...
HE'S DEAD, SIR!
NOTIFY DR. McCOY, MR. SPOCK... ON MY WAY... KIRK OUT!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN, BONES?
READS LIKE A CORONARY! ORDERLY, GET THIS BODY DOWN TO SICK BAY... PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE AUTOPSY!
ONE MOMENT, DOCTOR!
SPOCK PRIES A PIECE OF PAPER FROM THE DEAD SCIENTIST'S FINGERS!
TOJUFU
DISCOVER
UNPREC
COMM
PLANT
APPARENTLY HE WAS TYPING THE TITLE PAGE OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE!
THE QUESTION IS... WHERE'S THE REST OF IT?

AND IN MOORE'S CABIN...
LET'S ENLARGE THE QUESTION, CAPTAIN! WHERE IS THE MANUSCRIPT... PERIOD!
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES!
STOLEN? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE ON BOARD HAS STOLEN THE MANUSCRIPT? THAT SOMEONE TORE THE TITLE PAGE FROM PROFESSOR MOORE'S FINGERS?
IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, IS IT NOT, THAT THIS "SOMEONE" DID NOT ORIGINALLY DISCOVER THE PROFESSOR IN HIS PRESENTLY LIFELESS CONDITION?
I WANT THAT AUTOPSY REPORT IMMEDIATELY, DOCTOR!
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 5717.2: Have convened ship's investigation this star date as to questionable death of Professor Patrick Moore.
USS ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
STAR TREK
PART TWO
"The Evil That Men Do..."

AUTOPSY HAS REVEALED TRACES OF A POISON SIMILAR TO POTASSIUM CYANIDE, RATHER OBVIOUS, BUT DEADLY NEVERTHELESS!
ARE YOU SAYING THE PROFESSOR WAS **MURDERED**?
THAT'S WHAT WE HOPE TO DETERMINE, DR. AARAKA!
BONES, YOU SAY THAT THE POISON ONLY CLOSELY RESEMBLES POTASSIUM CYANIDE?
THAT'S CORRECT! THE SUBSTANCE CARRIES AN EXTRA MOLECULE THAT SO FAR HAS ELUDED THE SHIP'S BIO-COMPS!
BUT WHY SHOULD SOMEONE GO SO FAR AS TO KILL...
YES, WHY WOULD SOMEONE GO SO FAR AS TO KILL PATRICK... ENLIGHTEN US, DR. AARAKA!
IT IS SAID "HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNED!"
THAT'S ENOUGH! PLEASE CONTINUE, DR. McCOY!
A HALF EATEN PORTION OF PUDDING DISCOVERED IN MOORE'S STATEROOM CAME UP ANALYSIS POSITIVE!
THE **PUDDING** WAS IMPREGNATED WITH THE POISON!

QUICKLY, THE STEWARD IS CALLED FORWARD...
YES, SIR! PROF. MOORE ASKED ME TO BRING A PORTION OF PUDDING TO HIS CABIN SHORTLY AFTER RETIRING! I BELIEVE DR. AARAKA CAN CONFIRM THAT!
DR. AARAKA?
I HAD TROUBLE WITH THE LOCK MECHANISM ON MY CABIN DOOR. YOUR STEWARD HERE OFFERED ASSISTANCE!
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE TRAY, STEWARD, WHEN YOU HELPED DR. AARAKA?
DR. BOWERS HELD IT FOR ME!
THERE YOU HAVE THE 'HOW' OF IT, CAPTAIN, THE 'WHY' IS CERTAIN TO FOLLOW!
EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN... I DON'T MEAN TO INCRIMINATE ANYONE, BUT I ASSISTED DR. BOWERS MOMENTS LATER IN HER CABIN!
FORMAL INVESTIGATION PROCEEDINGS ARE NOW IN RECESS! I'M SORRY, BUT I MUST ASK ALL OF YOU TO REMAIN IN YOUR CABINS UNDER SECURITY CONFINEMENT!
GOOD DAY, CAPTAIN!

AS THE TRIO FIND THEMSELVES ALONE..
ALL RIGHT, MR. SPOCK...LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
I HAVE SUPERIMPOSED A GRID OVER THE TORN TITLE PAGE, CONFORMING TO THE PRECISE TYPE SIZE!
NOTICE THAT THERE ARE TWO SPACES BETWEEN THE WORDS ON BOTH THE TOP AND BOTTOM LINE!
AH HMM. I SEE!
WELL, I DON'T SEE! I'M A DOCTOR...NOT A TYPESETTER!
OBVIOUSLY, PROFESSOR MOORE WAS METICULOUSLY BALANCING HIS TYPE LAYOUT!
SO??
PATIENCE, DOCTOR! THE ONLY WORD, IF INDEED IT IS A SINGLE WORD, THAT COMPLETES THE MIDDLE LINE IS: "UNPRECEDENTED"! I HAVE FILLED THAT IN, AND PLACED "X'S" IN THE REMAINING EMPTY SPACES, IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE THE ULTIMATE BALANCE!
WELL DONE, MR. SPOCK! HAVE ANALYSIS SECTOR STAND BY TO STUDY AND COMPLETE! GENTLEMEN, THE KILLER MUST BE MANEUVERED INTO REVEALING HIMSELF!
...THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE WAS INTENT ON PREVENTING PROF. MOORE'S PRESENTATION AT BETA AURIGAE! HE...OR SHE, MUST BE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANOTHER COPY OF THE REPORT, AND THAT IT IS IN MY POSSESION!
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY! I WON'T SANCTION IT!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, BONES! DON'T WORRY, I'VE NO INTENTION OF BEING MURDERED!

...AT PRESENT, WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO THE POINTLESS MURDER OF PROF. MOORE!
POINTLESS, CAPTAIN? IF THE MURDERER WAS AFTER THE MANUSCRIPT, HE HAS SUCCEEDED!
NOT NECESSARILY, DOCTOR! BEFORE DEPARTING M-317 THE PROFESSOR ENTRUSTED ME WITH A HARD COPY OF THE REPORT FOR SAFE KEEPING! UPON ARRIVAL AT BETA AURIGAE, I WILL SEE THAT IT IS TURNED OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES!
I DO NOT ENVY YOUR POSITION, CAPTAIN ... HE WHO KILLED ONCE, MAY KILL AGAIN!
HE, MR. TERRENS? YOU'RE SEVERAL STEPS AHEAD OF US!
I SPEAK INTUITIVELY, CAPTAIN!
OF COURSE!
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE BUSINESS ON THE BRIDGE BEFORE RETIRING!
GOOD NIGHT... CAPTAIN!

AND INDEED THE CAPTAIN **DOES** HAVE BUSINESS ON THE BRIDGE!
I HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING AN ELECTRONIC VIGIL ON YOUR QUARTERS AS REQUESTED, CAPTAIN... **NOTHING** TO REPORT!
VERY WELL, MR. SPOCK... LET'S TURN IN!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, CAPTAIN, AS FIRST OFFICER, I PROTEST THE SINGLE-HANDEDNESS WITH WHICH A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION IS BEING ENTERTAINED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER!
HOWEVER, JIM, AS YOUR FRIEND, I ASK YOU TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION!
SPOCK?
BLAMMM

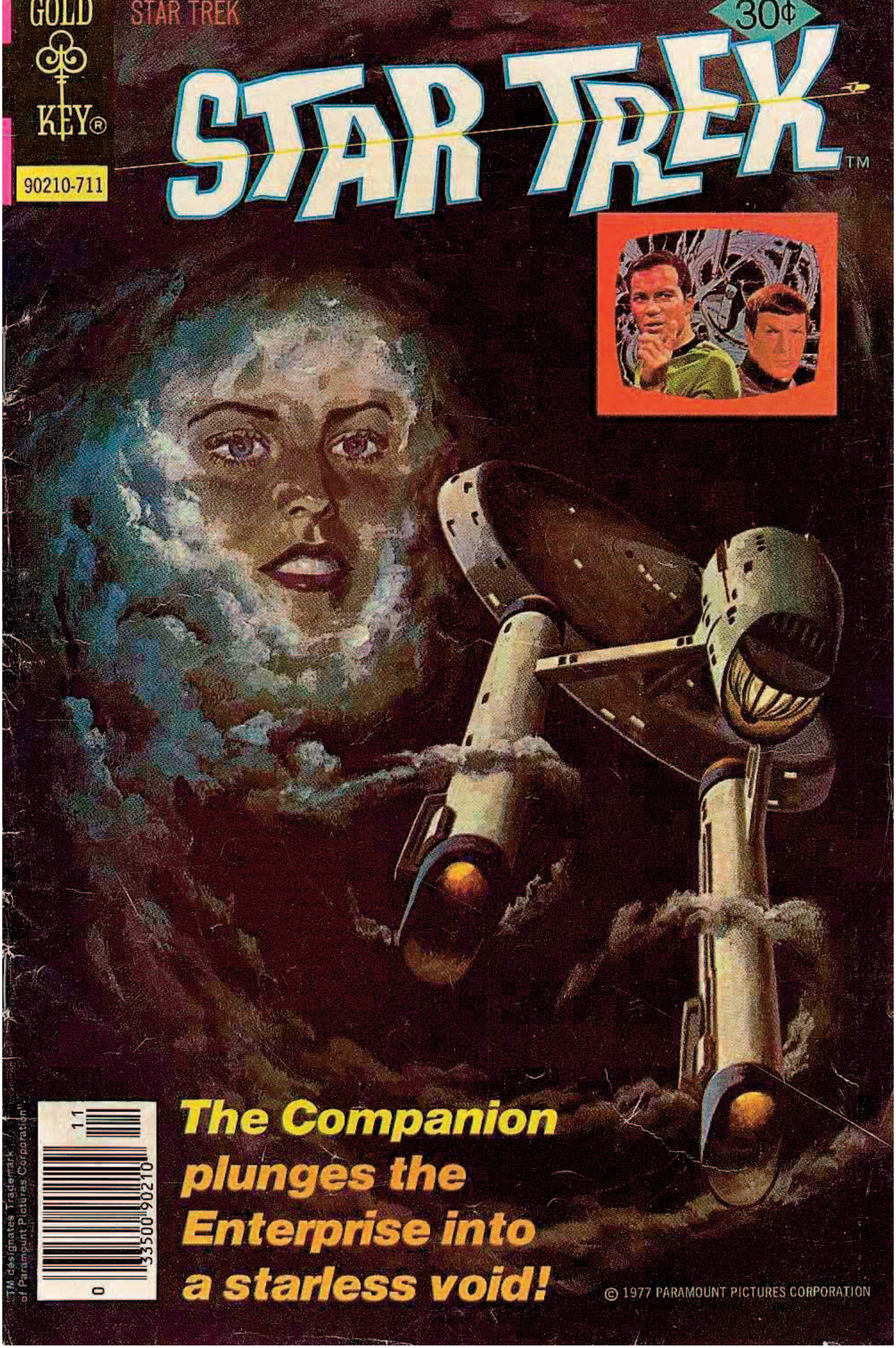
DO I **HAVE** TO SAY IT, JIM? BY LETTING THOSE THREE OUT OF SECURITY CONFIN...
THEY'RE BACK IN THEIR CABINS UNDER...
WELL, IT'S **TOO** LATE! YOU'VE **RISKED** THE LIFE OF YOU'RE FIRST OFFICER.. YOU'VE **ENDANGERED** THE CREW.. YOU'VE PLACED THIS SH...
THAT'S ENOUGH, DOCTOR!
THE SHRILL PIPING OF THE BOS'N ON THE INTERCOMM INTERRUPTS!
KIRK HERE!
SUPPLY OFFICER, SIR! PILFERAGE REPORT ON THE MOORE CONSIGNMENT!
PILF..?..ALL RIGHT... CARRY ON! I'LL GET TO IT LATER!
SPOCK..?
HE'S IN GOOD HANDS, JIM.. DR. M'BENGA!
THANKS A LOT, JIM.. UHH.. SORRY ABOUT.. BEFORE!
FORGET IT, BONES! WHEN CAN I SEE HIM?
1701

CAPTAIN'S LOG: 5718.4 U.S.S. ENTERPRISE IN ORBIT BETA AURIGAE III, SHIP'S INVESTIGATION: Fruitless, as the murderer of Prof. Patrick Moore goes undetermined. Our passengers resist computer analysis of their testimonies, and I have no choice but to turn the matter over to Federation authorities on Beta Aurigae!
NCC-1701
WHY A GUARD? THIS IS INCREDIBLE THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
I'M SORRY, MISS BOWERS! I'VE VERY LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT THE SITUATION... YOU'RE NOW OUT OF MY JURISDICTION!
AND, MR. TERRENS, I WILL BE READING PROFESSOR MOORE'S PAPER TOMORROW NIGHT!... ENERGIZE!

INITIALLY I HAD PASSED OFF THE PILFERAGE REPORT AS INCONSEQUENTIAL! IN MY CONCERN FOR SPOCK, I HAD FAILED TO CONSIDER ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES!
OF COURSE... THE POISON!
AN EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINING SAMPLES SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING!
PERSONALLY, I AM QUITE SATISFIED AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE GUILTY INDIVIDUAL!
THE MURDERER WOULD HAVE TO BE WELL ACQUAINTED WITH MOORE'S WORK!
OUR KILLER IS WILLIAM TERRENS!
MY LIBRARY COMPUTER OFFERED 63 POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO OUR PUZZLING TITLE PAGE! OF THESE 63, ONLY 2 FALL WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY!.....
THE FIRST OF WHICH READS: "TOJUFU TREES, DISCOVERY OF AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMERCIAL PLANT FORM!"
FRANKLY, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A SCIENTIST OF MOORE'S CALIBER WOULD CALL THAT AN UNPRECEDENTED DISCOVERY!
AGREED!

AS DO I! SOLUTION 2 HOWEVER, OFFERS THE WORD "COMMUNICATING" AS A REPLACEMENT FOR "COMMERCIAL."
A COMMUNICATING PLANT FORM! IN OTHER WORDS, INTELLIGENT!!
A MAJOR DISCOVERY!
WHY, IF... THOSE TREES ARE AN INTELLIGENT FORM, PULPING THEM WOULD BE SLAUGHTER!
CORRECT, DOCTOR!
BY INTER-STELLAR TREATY, M-317 WOULD HAVE TO BE LEFT UNDISTURBED! THE END OF TERREN'S COMMERCIAL DREAMS!
REASON ENOUGH FOR HIM... TO KILL!
SUDDENLY, THE BOS'N'S WHISTLE SOUNDS OVER THE INTERCOM...
LT. UHURA, SIR... MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF THE FEDERATION SECURITY DETACHMENT ON BETA AURIGAE: "TERRENS HAS ESCAPED!"... SHALL I REPEAT THAT, CAPTAIN?
HALL OF SCIENC
INTERSTELLAR
GEOPHYSICAL
CONFERENCE

GENTLEBEINGS... SEVERAL DAYS AGO, WHILE ENROUTE TO THIS CONFERENCE, A GREAT MAN WAS STRUCK DOWN AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS SCIENTIFIC CAREER!
KNOWN TO ALL OF US, LOVED BY SOME, PATRICK MOORE WAS A TRIBUTE TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY... A TRIBUTE... TO LIFE ITSELF!
BY THE READING OF THIS PAPER, WE DENY HIS MURDERER THE VERY GOAL HE SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT...
THE DESTRUCTION OF PROFESSOR MOORE'S LAST GREAT WORK!
GENTLEBEINGS... A MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION... THANK YOU!
THE END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The Companion plunges the Enterprise into a starless void!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE 5803.6: We are now entering Canaris Galaxy, last known location of the experimental spacecraft which the Enterprise has been assigned to track down.
ACCORDING TO COMPUTER READOUT, CAPTAIN KIRK, THERE WERE NO METEOR STORMS, NOVAE OR ANY OTHER COSMIC MISHAPS THAT MIGHT HAVE WRECKED THE HYPER-WARP VEHICLES!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
DID ANY PILOT'S LOG INDICATE MALFUNCTIONS, MR. SPOCK?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, CAPTAIN! COMPUTER RECALLS THE CRAFT APPROACHING SPEED OF WARP 13... REPORTING NO PROBLEMS!
...WHEN SUDDENLY, THEY VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE GALAXY!
IT'S UNCANNY, MR. SPOCK!
I MEAN...OBJECTS CAN'T SIMPLY VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE...OR CAN THEY?
LOGICALLY, NO... THOUGH AT SPEEDS MUCH ABOVE WARP 9, ONE JOURNEYS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF KNOWN LOGIC!
AT THAT MOMENT...
MR. SPOCK! THAT SMALL PLANET COMING INTO VIEWSCREEN RANGE... DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
NATURALLY... GAMMA CANARIS N!

AND DO YOU REMEMBER OUR VISIT TO GAMMA CANARIS N, MR. SPOCK?
TO BE EXACT, CAPTAIN, IT CAME ABOUT ON STARDATE 3219.4! WE WERE RETURNING FROM A NEIGHBORING WORLD, EPSILON CANARIS III, IN OUR SHUTTLECRAFT...
... CARRYING ASSISTANT FEDERATION COMMISSIONER, NANCY HEDRON!
YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH ME, DR. McCOY! WHAT ARE MY CHANCES?
YOU HAVE A RARE ILLNESS CALLED SUKARNO'S DISEASE, COMMISSIONER!
IF NOT DEALT WITH PROMPTLY, IT'S INVARIABLY FATAL!
... BUT IN YOUR CASE, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK ON THE ENTERPRISE WITH ENOUGH TIME TO BEGIN TREATMENT!
Galileo
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
JUST THEN...
CAPTAIN, I HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THE SHUTTLECRAFT! SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE PULLING US OFF-COURSE!
WHAT...? WHERE..?
GREAT GALAXIES! THERE'S OUR ANSWER, MR. SPOCK! A..A STRANGE CLOUD CREATURE, DRAWING US TOWARD GAMMA CANARIS N!
FASCINATING!

"I'LL NEVER FORGET MY SURPRISE WHEN WE REACHED THE PLANET'S SURFACE, TO BE GREETED BY..."
ONE CAN HARDLY FORGET ZEFRAM COCHRANE, THE DISCOVERER OF SPACE WARP DRIVE!
ZEFRAM COCHRANE!
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME!
NCC-1701-7
U.S.S. ENTERPR
HOWEVER, SIR, BY MY CALCULATIONS, YOU ARE OVER 200 EARTH YEARS OLD!
HA-HA... I HAVE THE COMPANION TO THANK FOR THAT!
KINDLY EXPLAIN YOUR YOUTHFUL APPEARANCE AND VIGOR!
WHAT THE DEVIL?
THE COMPANION...IT'S THE NAME I GAVE TO THAT CLOUD CREATURE! IT HAS INTELLIGENCE AND STRANGE POWERS!
WE CROSSED PATHS WHEN I WAS 87 YEARS OLD! THE COMPANION REJUVENATED ME, AND HAS BEEN KEEPING ME ALIVE HERE ON GAMMA CANARIS N!
I BELIEVE IT BROUGHT YOU PEOPLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH SOME HUMAN COMPANY!
VERY TOUCHING.., BUT WE CAN'T STAY! THIS LADY REQUIRES IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION!

"THE COMMISSIONER'S NEEDS OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T MATTER TO THE CLOUD CREATURE!"
IT WON'T LET US NEAR THE SHUTTLECRAFT!
IT APPARENTLY PLANS TO KEEP US HERE FOREVER!
WHILE YOU TWO ARE BUSY **SPECULATING** MY PATIENT IS **DYING**! IN FACT... IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE TO SAVE HER!
"EVENTUALLY, WE WERE ABLE TO ADAPT OUR COMMUNICATORS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH **"THE COMPANION!"**
I FEAR, IF THEY LEAVE, YOU WILL LEAVE WITH THEM, ZEFRAM COCHRANE!
INTERESTING! THE CREATURE HAS A DISTINCTLY FEMININE PERSONALITY!
AND SHE'S IN **LOVE**!
LOVE?
YES... WITH **YOU**, COCHRANE!
GASP TH-THAT PRESENTS ... AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION!
NOT SO, ZEFRAM!
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHE WHO LIES DYING...
CAN I NOT INHABIT HER?
CAN I NOT SAVE HER... SHARE CONSCIOUSNESS?
RESTORE HER HEALTH?
BRING BACK HER BEAUTY?
AND KNOW HUMAN LOVE?
I THINK, GENTLE-MEN, EVERYONE'S PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED!
"WHEN WE LEFT GAMMA CANARIS N, I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE ZEFRAM COCHRANE OR NANCY HEDRON AGAIN!"
Galileo
USS ENTERPRISE

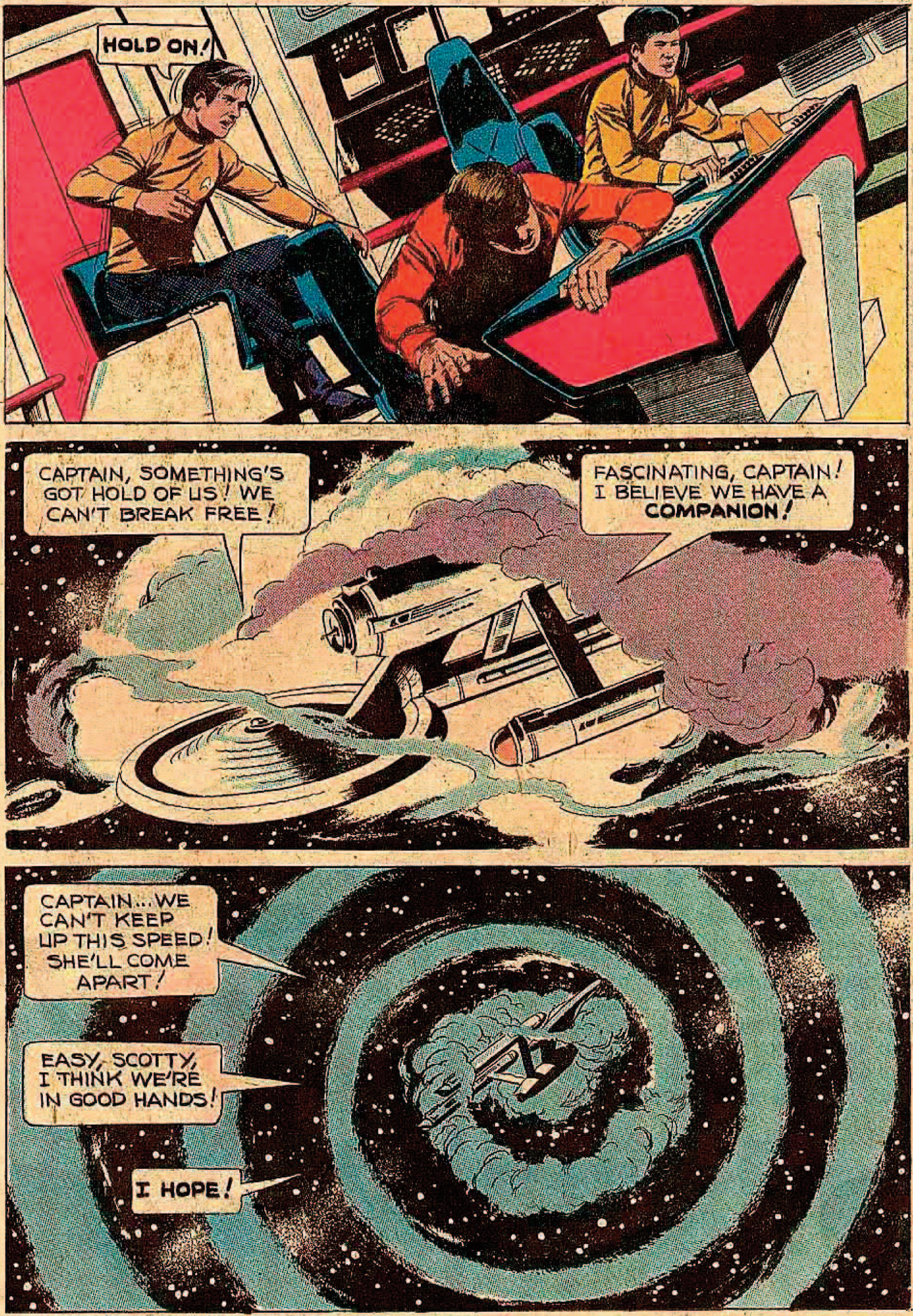
...BUT NOW, WE PRACTICALLY HAVE NO CHOICE
LT. UHURA, HAVE DR. McCOY REPORT TO THE TRANSPORTER...TELL HIM HE'S GOING TO VISIT SOME OLD FRIENDS!
YES, SIR!
BUT THE COMING 'VISIT' IS NO HAPPY SURPRISE TO THE STARSHIP'S PHYSICIAN!
JIM...COCHRANE AND NANCY WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE...AND WE PROMISED TO RESPECT THAT WISH!
BUT THESE ARE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, BONES! COCHRANE MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN HELP US!
THE CAPTAIN IS QUITE LOGICAL, DOCTOR... SINCE OUR PROBLEM CONCERNS WARP DRIVE AND ZEFRAM COCHRANE IS THE FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON THAT SUBJECT!
AS I'VE OFTEN EXPLAINED, MR. SPOCK, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOGIC OF THE MIND AND LOGIC OF THE HEART!
BUT, SINCE I'M OUTVOTED, LET'S GET THIS TRIP OVER WITH!
THREE TO BEAM DOWN, MR. SCOTT... TAKE COMMAND!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
SHORTLY, AS ENERGIZERS HUM, CONVERTING THREE FORMS INTO PURE ENERGY...

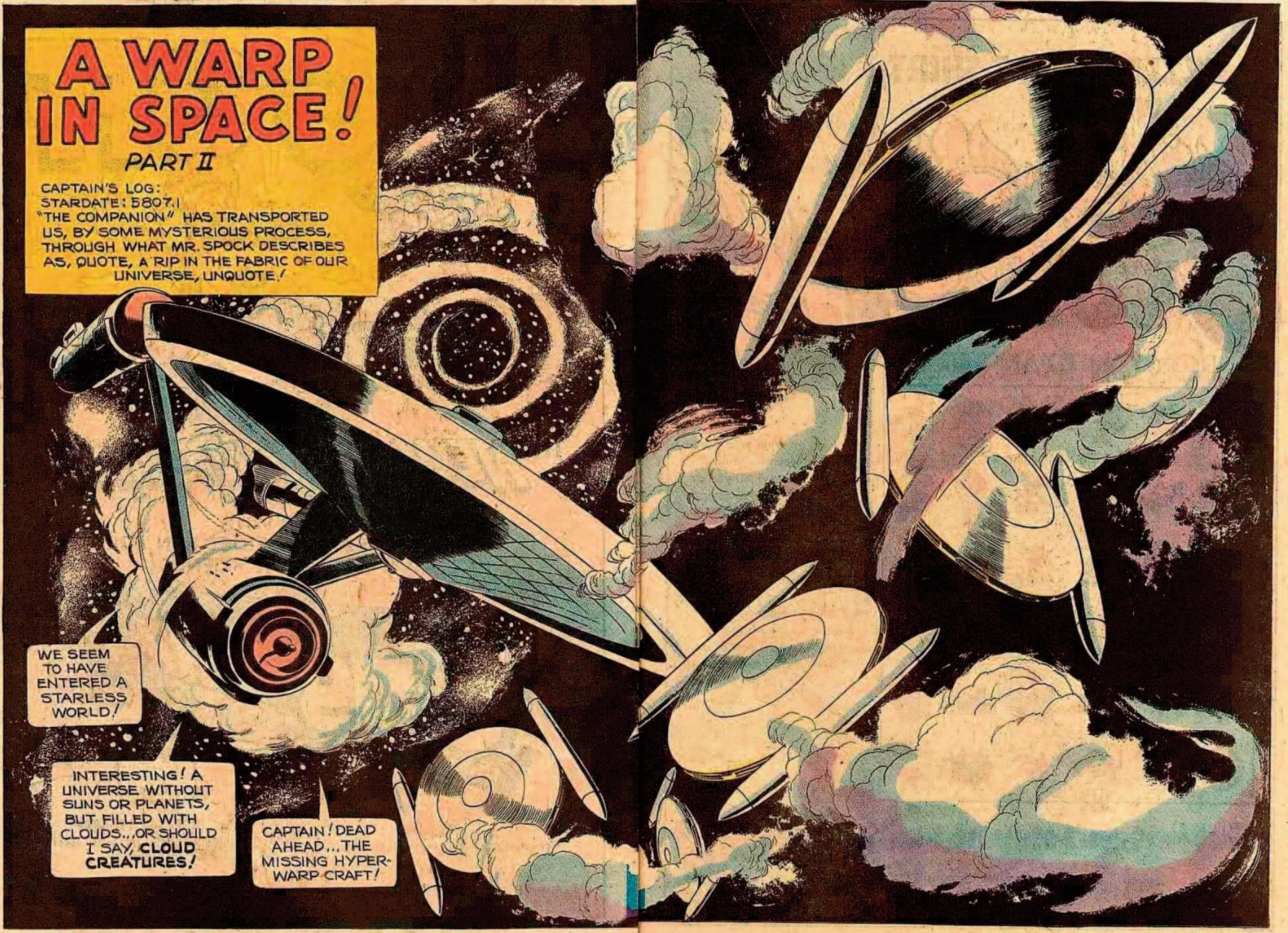
AN INSTANT LATER ON THE SURFACE OF GAMMA CANARIS N!
ZEFRAM! COME QUICKLY! LOOK!
WHAT..? WHO COULD POSSIBLY..
KIRK! McCOY... I THOUGHT...
THAT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF US? SO DID WE, COCHRANE... BUT NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP... URGENTLY!
WHAT SORT OF HELP COULD I BE?
EXPERIMENTAL STAR-SHIPS, TRAVELING AT HYPER-WARP SPEEDS HAVE VANISHED IN THIS VICINITY...
WE'RE HOPING, PERHAPS, WITH YOUR EXPERTISE..
HYPER-WARP SPEEDS, EH? I'LL ADMIT THE CHALLENGE INTRIGUES ME!
ZEFRAM! YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD NEVER AGAIN GET INVOLVED WITH PROBLEMS OUT THERE!
BUT NANCY... HOW CAN I TURN AWAY PEOPLE WHO NEED MY HELP?
THEY CAME TO DESTROY OUR PEACE... OUR PRIVACY... AND YOU'RE ALLOW-ING IT!

NANCY... OR SHOULD I SAY, THE COMPANION, FEARS ANYTHING THAT MIGHT SEPARATE US! SO LET'S SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM AND SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY!
EXCELLENT! MR. SPOCK WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS!
JIM, I DON'T LIKE IT! THE TERROR IN NANCY'S VOICE...IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING FAR WORSE THAN A LOVER'S QUARREL!
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM WOMEN TOO LONG, BONES! NANCY WILL GET OVER IT AS SOON AS WE'RE GONE!
BUT AFTER HOURS OF INTENSIVE ANALYSIS...
INTRIGUING! YOU HAVE PRODUCED THE OPTIMAL NUMBER OF HYPOTHESES, YET EACH ONE RUNS INTO A MATHEMATICAL STONE-WALL!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! SOME...SOME UNSEEN FORCE, SEEMS TO BE THWARTING US!
HMM.., WOULD YOU PLEASE STEP OUT-SIDE A MOMENT, MR. SPOCK!
AS YOU WISH, SIR!
IT WAS YOU, NANCY, WASN'T IT? I SENSED THE EMANATIONS! YOU WERE THROWING OFF OUR CALCULATIONS!
YES, I ADMIT IT... PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY, ZEFRAM!

I WON'T BE ANGRY IF YOU TELL ME THE REASON!
IT IS BETTER THAT YOU NOT KNOW, ZEFRAM!
JUST BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT YOU ARE TAMPERING WITH MYSTICAL CELESTIAL MOVEMENTS, FAR BEYOND THE REACHES OF YOUR SCIENCE...
AND THE MORE YOU TAMPER THE CLOSER YOU COME TO DESTROYING US!
BAH! WHAT SUPERNATURAL NONSENSE...
THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO HELP OUR FRIENDS, AND I'M GOING TO DO IT!
THOUGH I CAN'T SOLVE THE DISAPPEARANCES, CAPTAIN KIRK, I'VE WORKED OUT THESE MODIFICATIONS FOR YOUR WARP-DRIVE ENGINES!
THEY'LL ENABLE YOU TO APPROACH THE SPEED AT WHICH THE EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT VANISHED!
GOOD ENOUGH, COCHRANE!

JUST...BE CAREFUL!
WE WILL...AND THANK YOU!...
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE... THREE FOR TRANSPORT!
I FEAR I HAVE ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE...AND IT IS TOO LATE TO STOP THEM!
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS...
...JOIN...THEM!
NANCY!
GASP Y-YOU'RE JUST AS YOU WERE BEFORE THE COMPANION RESTORED YOU! IN ANOTHER FEW HOURS YOU'LL BE DEAD!
WHY, NANCY... WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
THESE ARE COCHRANE'S MODIFICATIONS, SCOTTY... THINK YOU CAN MANAGE THEM?
CAN I! HAH! DOES LOCH LOMOND HAVE BONNIE BANKS?


HOLD ON!
CAPTAIN, SOMETHING'S GOT HOLD OF US! WE CAN'T BREAK FREE!
FASCINATING, CAPTAIN! I BELIEVE WE HAVE A **COMPANION**!
CAPTAIN... WE CAN'T KEEP UP THIS SPEED! SHE'LL COME APART!
EASY, SCOTTY, I THINK WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS!
I HOPE!


A WARP IN SPACE!
PART II
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE: 5807.1 "THE COMPANION" HAS TRANSPORTED US, BY SOME MYSTERIOUS PROCESS, THROUGH WHAT MR. SPOCK DESCRIBES AS, QUOTE, A RIP IN THE FABRIC OF OUR UNIVERSE, UNQUOTE!
WE SEEM TO HAVE ENTERED A STARLESS WORLD!
INTERESTING! A UNIVERSE WITHOUT SUNS OR PLANETS, BUT FILLED WITH CLOUDS...OR SHOULD I SAY, CLOUD CREATURES!
CAPTAIN! DEAD AHEAD...THE MISSING HYPER-WARP CRAFT!

THEY SEEM TO BE HOVERING AIMLESSLY... LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS WASTELAND!
OPEN A HAILING FREQUENCY, LT. UHURA!
YES, SIR!
ATTENTION, X-1! THIS IS CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE... WHAT IS YOUR STATUS?
X-1 HERE, ENTERPRISE! DO NOT... REPEAT, DO NOT ATTEMPT FURTHER CONTACT!
DID I HEAR RIGHT? ARE THEY REFUSING RESCUE?
PUZZLING!
ENTERPRISE TO CRAFT... YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ARE REJECTED! PREPARE TO RECEIVE BOARDING PARTIES!

CAPTAIN... AM I GOIN' DAFT, OR ARE THEM... THEM KIDDY-CARS FORMIN' INTO COMBAT POSITIONS?
SOMEONE'S 'DAFT' ALL RIGHT, SCOTTY, BUT IT'S NOT YOU! THEY SEEM TO BE CHALLENGING US!
ALL PERSONNEL TO BATTLE STATIONS!
CAPTAIN... ALL OUR SYSTEMS APPEAR UNRESPONSIVE!
CAPTAIN! THOSE STRANGE RAYS...
THEY'RE SHRINKING THE ENTERPRISE AND EVERYTHING ABOARD IT...
EXCEPT US!

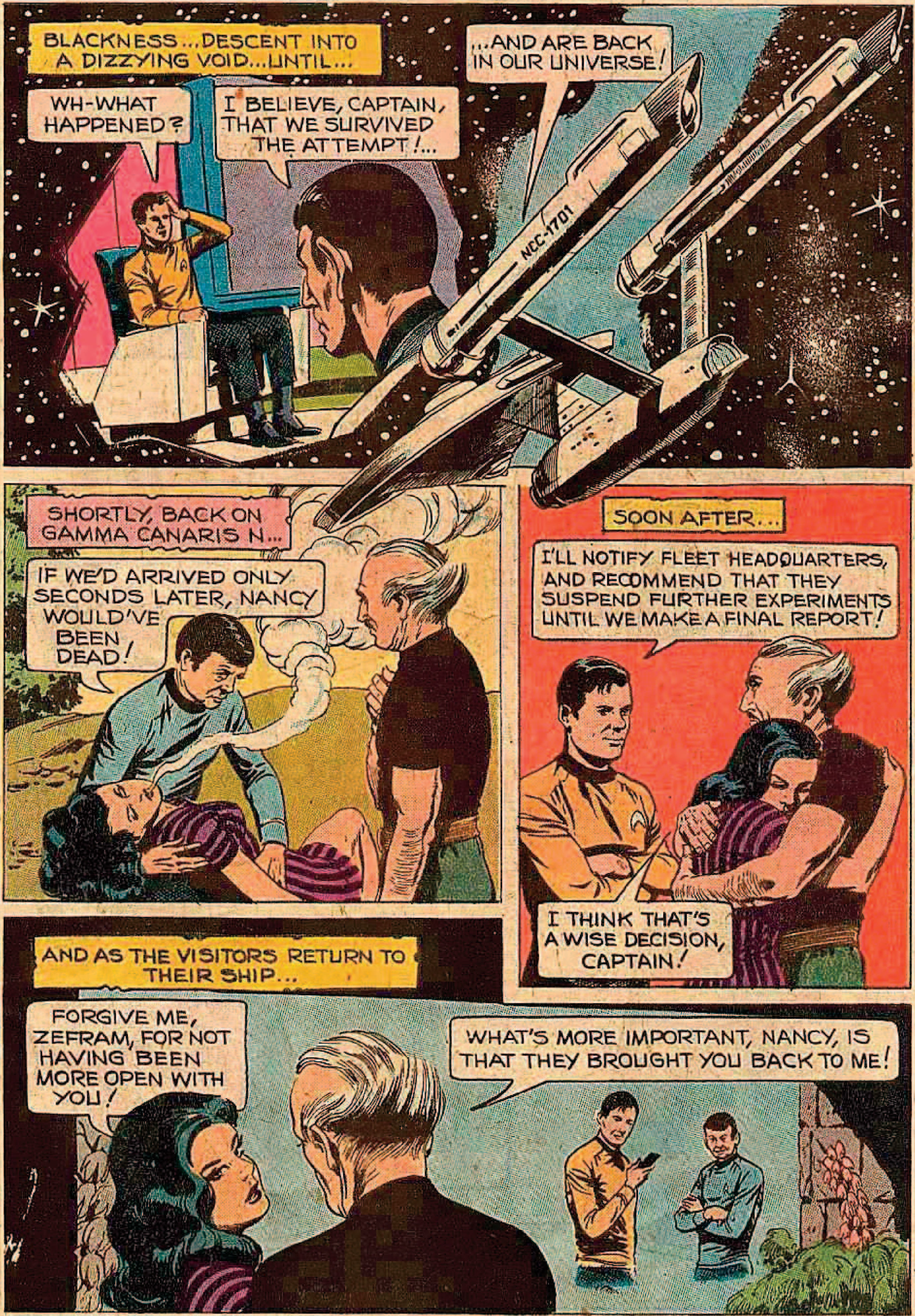
WHERE? WHERE DID THEY GET SUCH WEAPONS?
ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE!
WHO CARES! IN ANOTHER MINUTE, WE'LL BE GROUND TO DUST!
GREAT GALAXIES!
BEGORRA!
FASCINATING!
BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT...
WHAT? WE'RE RETURNING TO NORMAL!
THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR MINDS... WHY?
THE MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS... WHO? ARE THEY THE ORIGINAL PILOTS OF THE CRAFT, OR...
THOSE SHIPS WERE PILOTED BY... MORE CLOUD CREATURES!

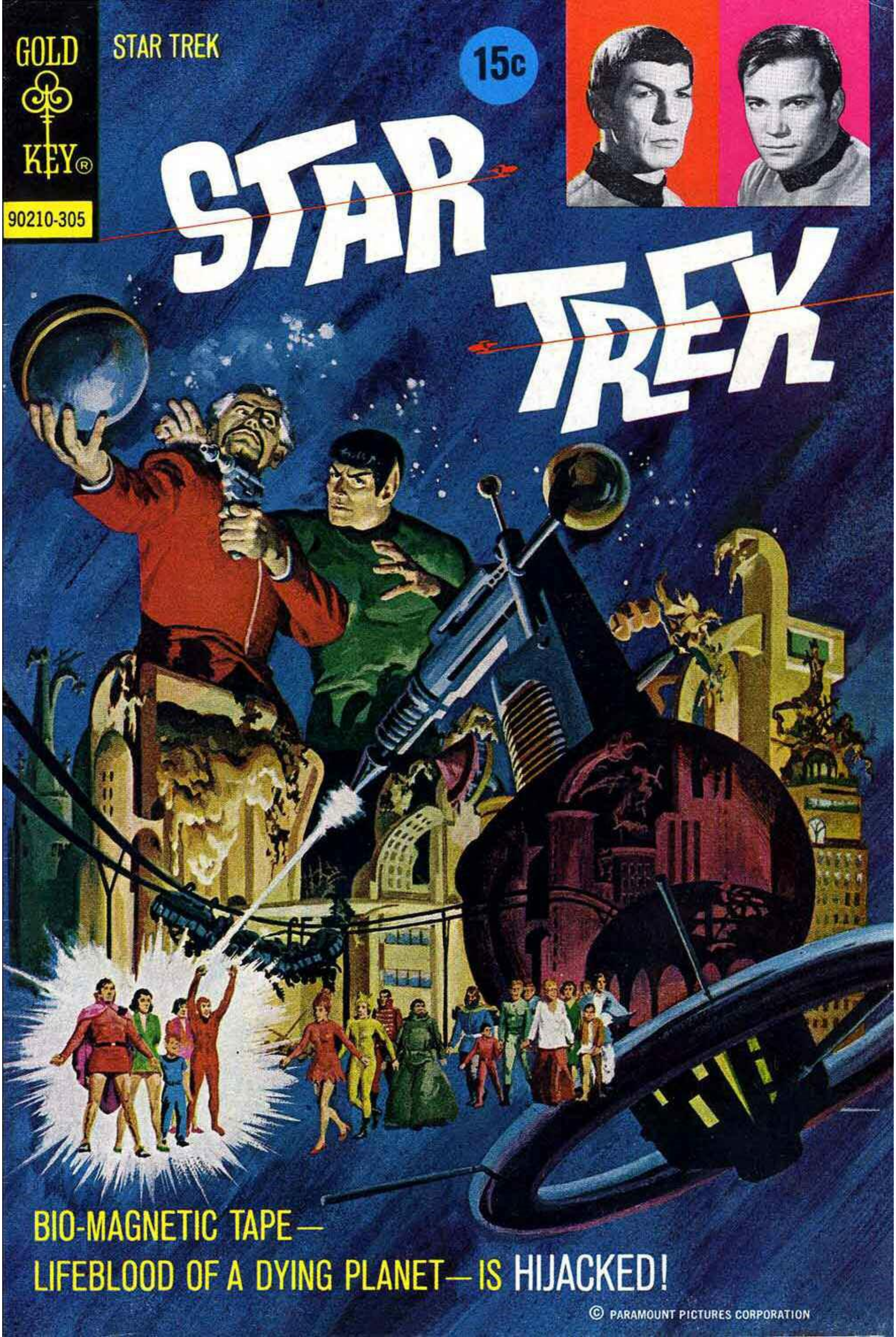
HERE, IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF OUR UNIVERSE, WE CAN COMMUNICATE BY TELEPATHY
WE DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU...ONLY TO DEMONSTRATE THE POWERS WE POSSESS!
I ASSURE YOU, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO VIVID! WE CAME IN PEACE...
WHERE ARE THE PILOTS OF THOSE CRAFT?
THE SPEED AT WHICH THEY WERE TRAVELING CAUSED THEM TO PASS THROUGH A RENT THAT EXISTS BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSES!
IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THEIR BODIES TO ENDURE...THEY ARE DEAD!
THAT IS WHY I LEFT ZEFRAM TO ACCOMPANY YOU!
THE COMPANION!
YOU TOO MIGHT HAVE PERISHED, HAD YOU ACHIEVED A SPEED OF WARP 15!...
BY TRANSPORTING YOU HERE, ..THE WAY I CAME OUT LONG AGO...I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT YOU!

'PROTECT' US? SHE SAVED OUR LIVES!
AT THE RISK OF HER OWN! FOR ALL WE KNOW, NANCY HEDRON MAY ALREADY BE DEAD!
OUR UNIVERSE OFFERS NOTHING OF VALUE TO FLESH-AND-BLOOD BEINGS LIKE YOURSELVES! WE WANT NOTHING OF YOU AND WILL OFFER NOTHING IN RETURN! THIS IS FINAL!
AGREE TO LEAVE NOW AND WE WILL ESCORT YOU OUT THE WAY YOU ARRIVED!
AGREED!
BUT SHE WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE... THE ONE YOU CALL THE COMPANION....MUST REMAIN!
WHAT??
I KNEW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN IF I RETURNED...
BUT THE THOUGHT OF GOING ON WITHOUT ZEFRAM, SADDENS ME! I WANT TO BE WITH HIM, HOWEVER I COULD NOT WITHSTAND THEM ALL!

THEN THAT SETTLES IT!...THE COMPANION GOES BACK WITH US!
IMPOSSIBLE! SHE MUST REMAIN!
THEY'RE RIGHT, CAPTAIN! WE DON'T KNOW THE WAY OUT OF HERE! THEM CLOUD CREATURES ARE CALLIN' ALL THE SHOTS!
WE ARE STARTING TO WEARY OF YOU, CAPT. KIRK! EITHER THE COMPANION LEAVES YOUR SHIP, OR WE WILL TERMINATE YOU!
WE WILL GIVE YOU TEN OF YOUR MINUTES TO DECIDE!
I MUST LEAVE YOU! I DO NOT WISH TO ENDANGER YOU IN THIS WAY!
THE HUMAN RACE OWES A DEBT TO ZEFRAM COCHRANE I WOULD LIKE TO REPAY!
BUT, CAPTAIN... GETTING OUT WILL WRECK US!
MAYBE, SCOTTY... JUST MAYBE!
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN!

THOSE MODIFICATIONS THAT COCHRANE SUGGESTED...DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE THEM OPERATIONAL IN TEN MINUTES?
I...I'M NOT SURE...
WELL, YOU'D **BETTER** BE SURE, MR SCOTT! THAT'S AN ORDER!
AYE, SIR!
WHAT ARE YOU ATTEMPTING, CAPT. KIRK?
IT WAS WARP 15 DRIVE THAT PLUNGED THE EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT INTO YOUR UNIVERSE...
MAY I REMIND YOU, CAPTAIN, THAT IT ALSO KILLED THE PILOTS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT?
IT'S A CHANCE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE, MR. SPOCK! I'M BANKING ON THE ENTERPRISE'S STURDIER CONSTRUCT-ION TO PROTECT US!
SWIFTLY, TENSELY, THE MINUTES TICK OFF, AS...
BRIDGE TO ENGINEER-ING...HURRY, SCOTTY!
WORKIN' AS FAST AS I CAN, CAPTAIN!


BLACKNESS...DESCENT INTO A DIZZYING VOID...UNTIL...
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
I BELIEVE, CAPTAIN, THAT WE SURVIVED THE ATTEMPT!...
...AND ARE BACK IN OUR UNIVERSE!
NCC-1701
SHORTLY, BACK ON GAMMA CANARIS N...
IF WE'D ARRIVED ONLY SECONDS LATER, NANCY WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD!
SOON AFTER...
I'LL NOTIFY FLEET HEADQUARTERS, AND RECOMMEND THAT THEY SUSPEND FURTHER EXPERIMENTS UNTIL WE MAKE A FINAL REPORT!
I THINK THAT'S A WISE DECISION, CAPTAIN!
AND AS THE VISITORS RETURN TO THEIR SHIP...
FORGIVE ME, ZEFRAM, FOR NOT HAVING BEEN MORE OPEN WITH YOU!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, NANCY, IS THAT THEY BROUGHT YOU BACK TO ME!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LIFEBLOOD OF A DYING PLANET—IS HIJACKED!
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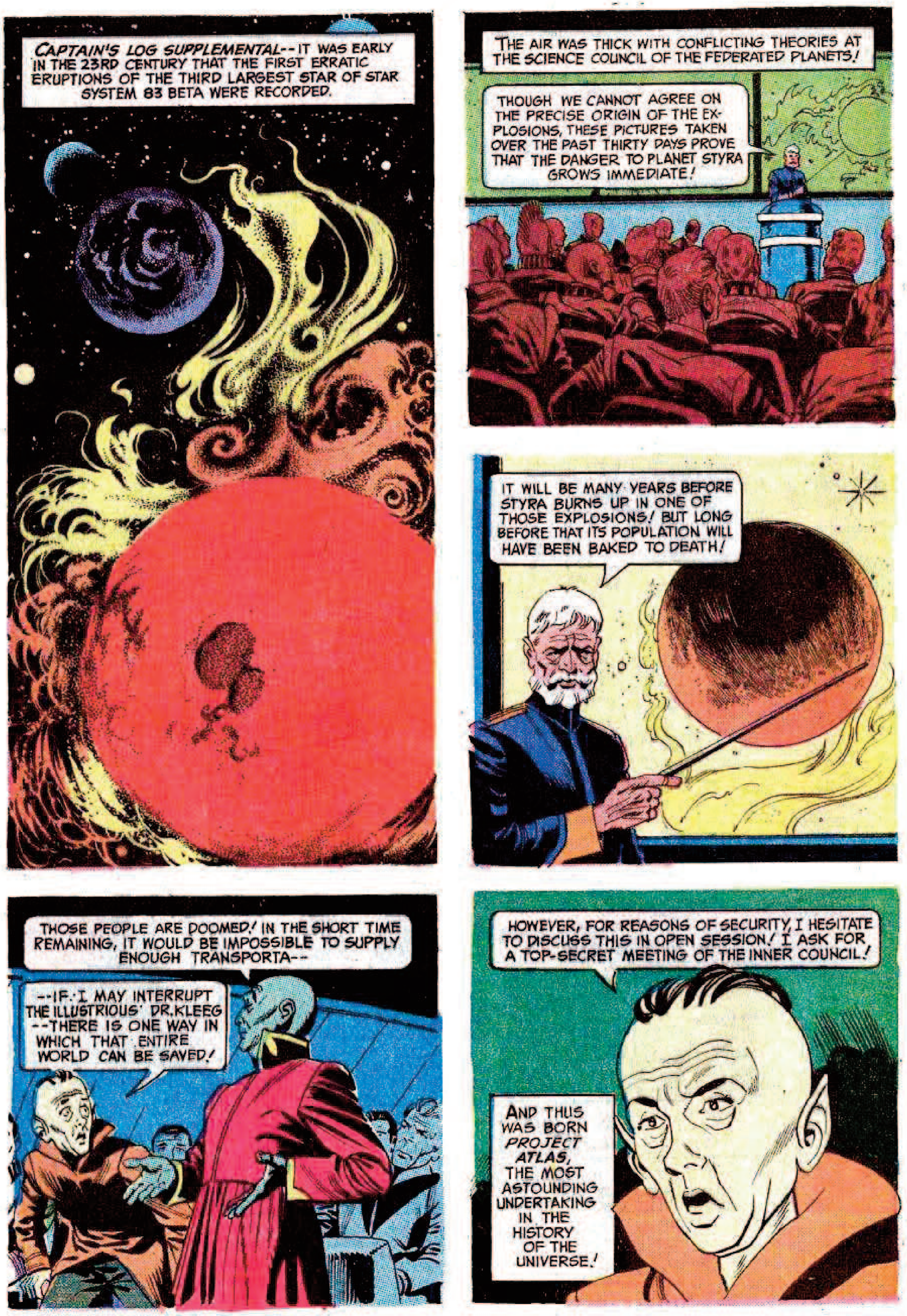
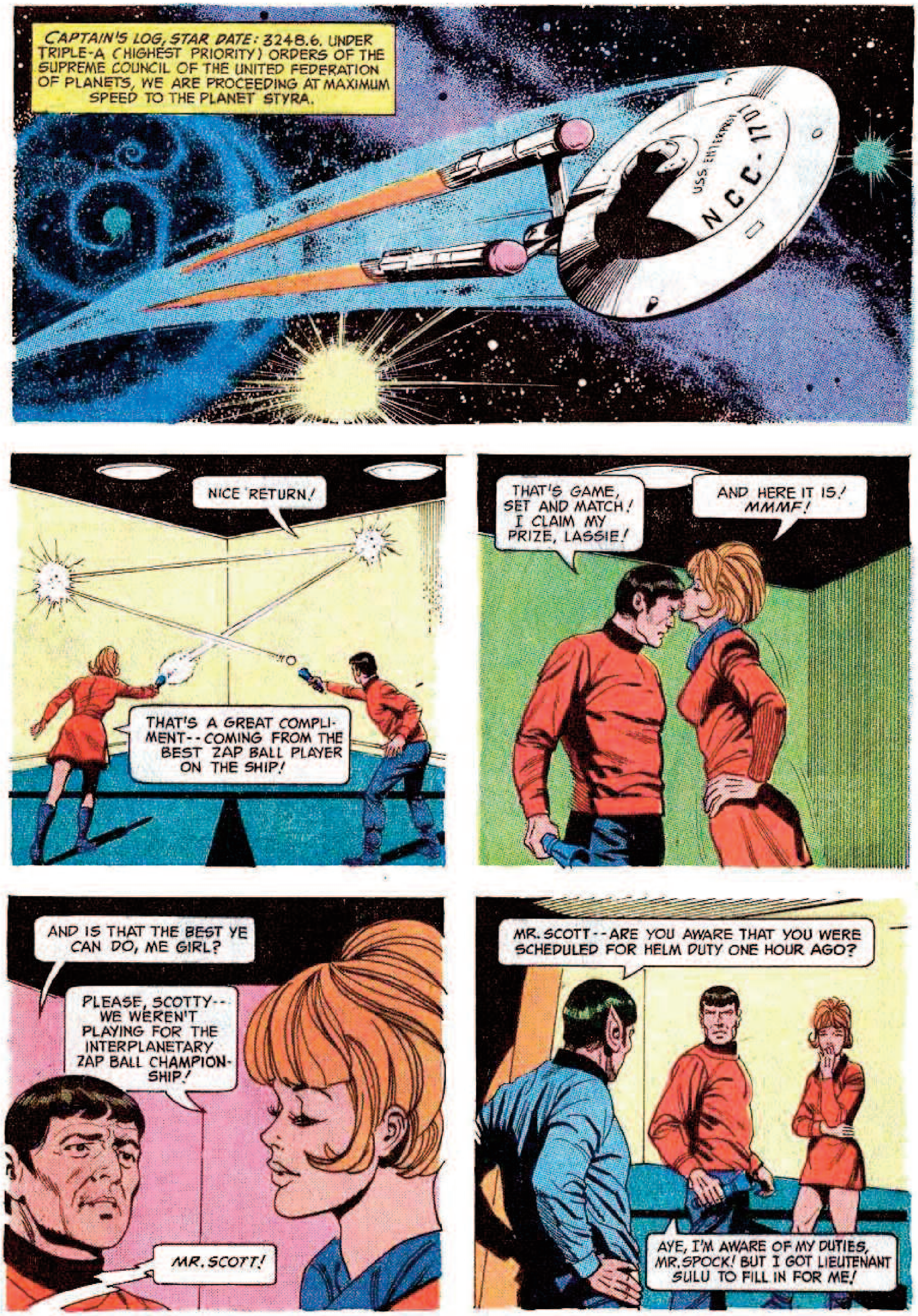

CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENTAL--IT WAS EARLY IN THE 23RD CENTURY THAT THE FIRST ERRATIC ERUPTIONS OF THE THIRD LARGEST STAR OF STAR SYSTEM 83 BETA WERE RECORDED.
THE AIR WAS THICK WITH CONFLICTING THEORIES AT THE SCIENCE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATED PLANETS!
THOUGH WE CANNOT AGREE ON THE PRECISE ORIGIN OF THE EXPLOSIONS, THESE PICTURES TAKEN OVER THE PAST THIRTY DAYS PROVE THAT THE DANGER TO PLANET STYRA GROWS IMMEDIATE!
IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE STYRA BURNS UP IN ONE OF THOSE EXPLOSIONS! BUT LONG BEFORE THAT ITS POPULATION WILL HAVE BEEN BAKED TO DEATH!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE DOOMED! IN THE SHORT TIME REMAINING, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPLY ENOUGH TRANSPORTA--
--IF I MAY INTERRUPT THE ILLUSTRIOUS DR. KLEEG --THERE IS ONE WAY IN WHICH THAT ENTIRE WORLD CAN BE SAVED!
HOWEVER, FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, I HESITATE TO DISCUSS THIS IN OPEN SESSION! I ASK FOR A TOP-SECRET MEETING OF THE INNER COUNCIL!
AND THUS WAS BORN PROJECT ATLAS, THE MOST ASTOUNDING UNDERTAKING IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE!


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE: 3248.6. UNDER TRIPLE-A (HIGHEST PRIORITY) ORDERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS, WE ARE PROCEEDING AT MAXIMUM SPEED TO THE PLANET STYRA.
USS ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
NICE RETURN!
THAT'S A GREAT COMPLI-MENT--COMING FROM THE BEST ZAP BALL PLAYER ON THE SHIP!
THAT'S GAME, SET AND MATCH! I CLAIM MY PRIZE, LASSIE!
AND HERE IT IS! MMMF!
AND IS THAT THE BEST YE CAN DO, ME GIRL?
PLEASE, SCOTTY--WE WEREN'T PLAYING FOR THE INTERPLANETARY ZAP BALL CHAMPION-SHIP!
MR. SCOTT!
MR. SCOTT--ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU WERE SCHEDULED FOR HELM DUTY ONE HOUR AGO?
AYE, I'M AWARE OF MY DUTIES, MR. SPOCK! BUT I GOT LIEUTENANT SULU TO FILL IN FOR ME!

"UNAUTHORIZED EXCHANGE OF DUTIES!" SPECIFICALLY FORBIDDEN UNDER ARTICLE 118 OF YOUR GENERAL ORDERS!
AND BROKEN MORE OFTEN THAN A FOOLISH GIRL'S HEART! SO DON'T BLOW YOUR VULCAN FUSE, MR. SPOCK!
HAD YOU BEEN AT YOUR POST, YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ALL EXECUTIVE STAFF WERE CALLED TO EMERGENCY SESSION--ALL, THAT IS, EXCEPT YOU! SHALL WE, MR. SCOTT?
ALWAYS AS COOL AS THEY COME! SOMETIMES I WISH HE REALLY WOULD BLOW HIS TOP!
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, LASSIE! A VULCAN HAS NO EMOTIONS!
THIS VIDEOTAPE CONTAINS OUR SECRET ORDERS WHICH WE CAN NOW--
AHHHH, MR. SCOTT--SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US! YOU WON'T NEED YOUR ZAP BALL FUNNEL, THOUGH!
OFFICERS OF THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE--YOUR MISSION IS THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE ENTIRE PLANET STYRA TO A SAFE NEW "HOME"!
WHAT?!!!

I AM DR. LANUGU AND IT IS MY RECENT DISCOVERY OF THE PROCESS I CALL BIO-MAGNETIC RECORDING FOR WHICH YOU CAN BLAME YOUR JOURNEY! REGARD THIS TINY CRYSTAL!
YOUR CAPTAIN HAS A SIMILAR CRYSTAL WHICH HE WILL NOW PLACE IN THE PORTABLE RE-TRANSMUTER GIVEN HIM!
THAT CRYSTAL CONTAINS A "RECORDING" OF EVERY CELL OF A LIVING THING! THE RE-TRANSMUTER WILL NOW RETURN THE ENERGY REMOVED FROM THAT BEING AND--
--RESTORE THE CREATURE PRECISELY AS IT WAS PRIOR TO RECORDING!
FANTASTIC! A DOG--MAGNETICALLY RECORDED AND STORED!
ARF! ARF!
THE ANIMAL IS PHYSICALLY PERFECT--BUT HIS BRAIN'S BEEN DAMAGED! OTHERWISE WHY WOULD THE WEE THING BE KISSIN' MR. SPOCK?
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
YOUR HUMOR COMPLETELY ESCAPES ME, MR. SCOTT!

EVEN NOW GIANT TRANSMUTING PLANETS ARE AT WORK AROUND THAT BROILING WORLD--TURNING ALL LIVING THINGS INTO BIO-RECORDINGS!
BY YOUR ARRIVAL, EVERY BIT OF LIFE ON STYRA WILL BE RECORDED! THE FINAL ACT WILL BE THE RECORDING OF THAT VERY WORLD ITSELF!
INCREDIBLE! WE'RE GOING TO MOVE A WHOLE *PLANET!*
PROJECT ATLAS HAS BEEN KEPT TOP SECRET FOR OBVIOUS REASONS! THE SLIGHTEST INTERFERENCE IN OUR WORK COULD DESTROY EVERY LIVING--
ATTENTION! ALL PERSONNEL! UNIDENTIFIED SPACE VEHICLE ON OUR SCANNER! IT DOES NOT ANSWER OUR CALLS!
WHAT'S THAT THING DOING OUT THERE? IT'S A LITTLE EMERGENCY CRAFT---NOT A SPACE CRUISER! IF THEY ABANDONED THEIR *SHIP--WHERE* IS IT?
I SHALL SEE IF WE CANNOT GET A SWIFT ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS, GENTLEMEN! PREPARE THE HATCH FOR SPACE DEBARKATION!

NO ENGINES FUNCTIONING CAN'T TELL HOW LONG IT'S BEEN FLOATING OUT HERE! I HOPE THE EXTERIOR CON TROLS OF THE SPACE HATCH ARE FUNCTIONING!
SO FAR SO GOOD! NOW TO SEE WHAT LIES INSIDE!
A WOMAN! COMPLETELY ALONE OUT HERE? HOW DID THAT HAP-PEN? AND IS SHE STILL--
--YES, SHE'S ALIVE! SHE'S TRYING TO TALK EVEN IN HER UNCONSCIOUS STATE!
CALLING ANY SHIP IN SPACE SECTOR 18-J! EMERGENCY! OUT OF FUEL! ALL SUPPLIES GONE! CAN'T HOLD OUT
ANSWER, SOMEBODY! THIS IS MY LAST TRANSMISSION! PLEASE ANSWER!
YOU HAVE BEEN ANSWERED, YOUNG WOMAN! LET US HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

COME IN, SOMEBODY-- ANYBODY! NO MORE FUEL! SUPPLIES GONE! CAN'T LAST ANY LONGER!
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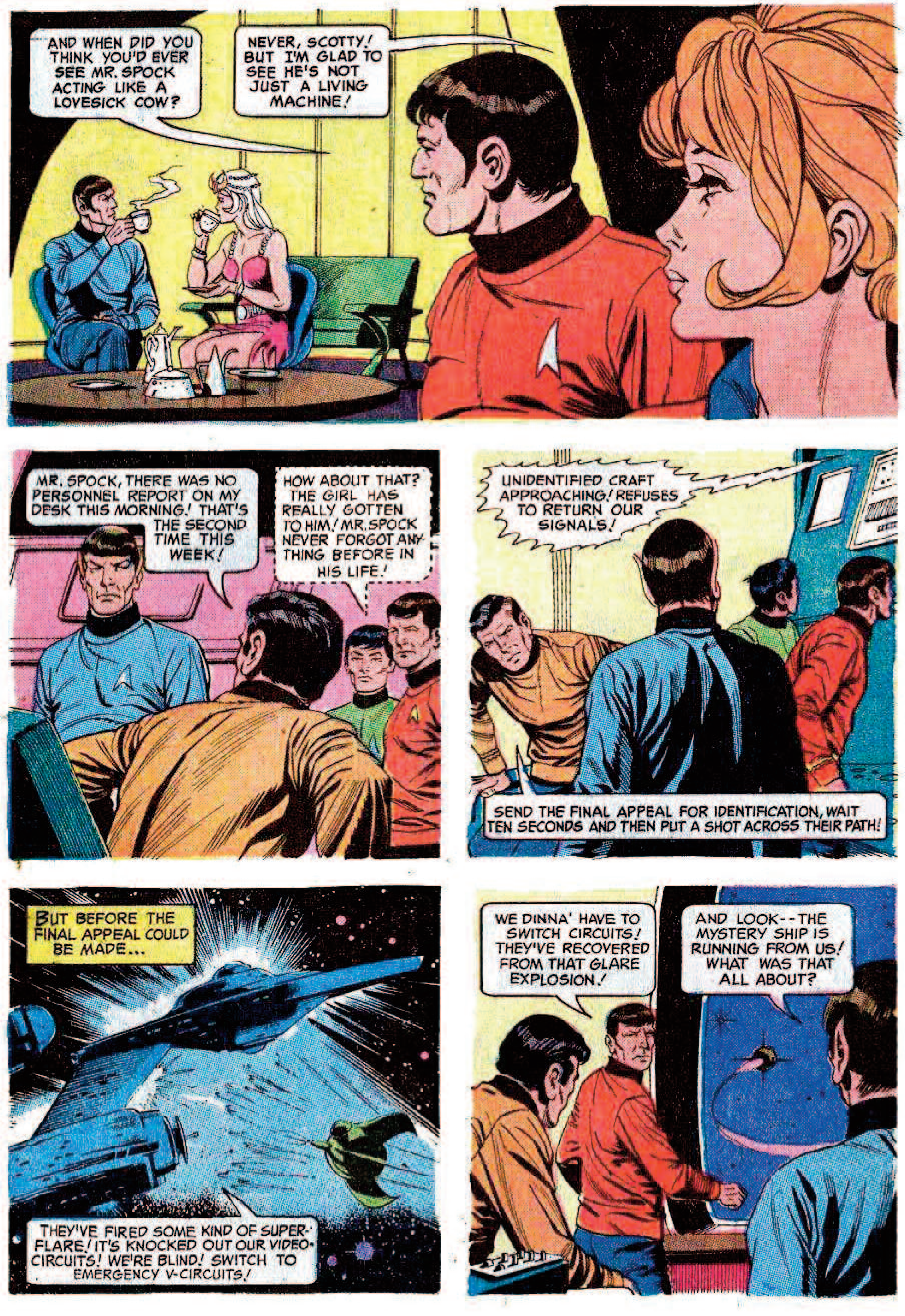
WHAT A NIGHTMARE SHE'S BEEN THROUGH! SUCH A YOUNG THING, TOO!
SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! MUST BE A LOT STRONGER THAN SHE LOOKS!
I'LL TAKE SOME FUEL OVER TO HER SHIP AND FLY IT BACK HERE! SEE YOU SHORTLY, CAPTAIN!
I'VE SEEN THIS WOMAN SOMEPLACE BEFORE! BUT WHERE? NOT IMPORTANT, I SUPPOSE!
LATER ABOARD SHIP...
WHERE AM--HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING THERE STARING AT ME?
JUST A FEW MINUTES, ALLURA! ALLURA WHAT? THAT'S ALL IT SAID ON YOUR IDENTITY DISC!
THAT'S ALL I USE--ONE NAME! SORRY I CAUSED YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE! I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE IT TO THE NEAREST SPACE STATION!
IN THAT LITTLE FLIVVER YOU WERE FLYING? THAT'S NOT FOR DEEP SPACE!

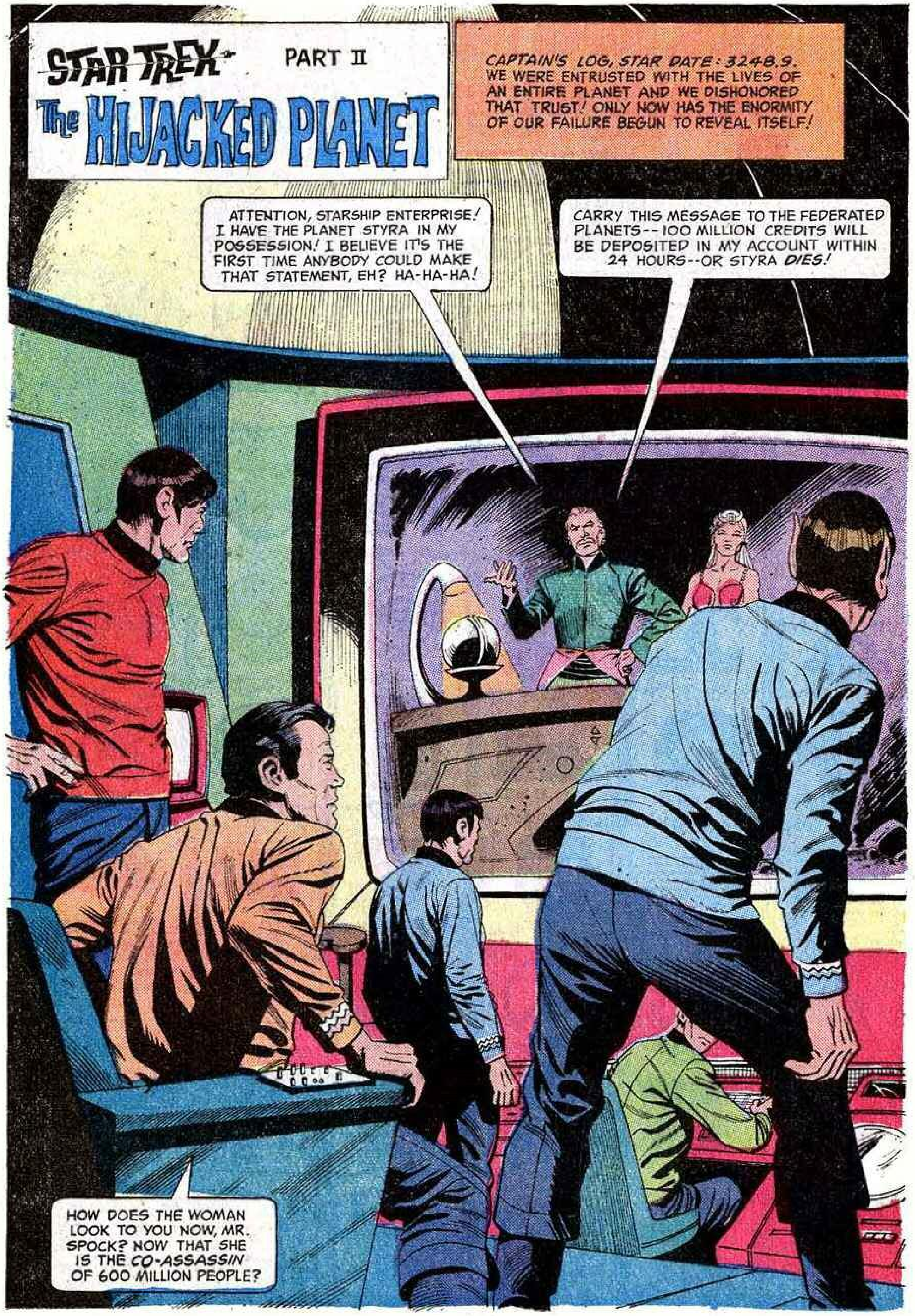
I KNOW! I WAS ABOARD A STARSHIP--BUT I HAD TO LEAVE! THAT LITTLE SHUTTLE SHIP WAS ALL THERE WAS!
YOU DON'T JUST LEAVE A SHIP IN DEEP SPACE!
"I HAD TO! I COULDN'T STAND HIM ANY LONGER! ANZAR--MY PARTNER IN SHOW BUSINESS! HE PLAYS ONE OF THOSE CRAZY BUDUPAPHONES..."
I'D LOVE TO HEAR YOU PLAY THAT THING IN A VACUUM TUNNEL!
YOU CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING IN A VACUUM TUNNEL!
EXACTLY!
"WE PLAYED SOME BIG DATES--BUT MOSTLY IT WAS LITTLE BACKWATER PLANETS."
HOW COME YOU WERE BORN ON URANUS?
I WANTED TO BE NEAR MY MOTHER!
"I TRIED TO LEAVE HIM A DOZEN TIMES, BUT HE ALWAYS HUNG ON TO ME...
I'VE GOT TO GO, ANZAR! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
STICK WITH ME, ALLURA! I'LL MAKE IT BIG SOON -- WAIT AND SEE!
"FROM THEN ON HE WAS ALWAYS INVOLVED IN SOME SHADY SCHEME! IT NEARLY DID HIM IN!
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF A CASE AGAINST YOU THIS TIME, ANZAR--
BUT WATCH YOUR STEP!

THEN HE STARTED ANOTHER SCHEME-- SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ANYTHING BEFORE! I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT--
SO YOU STOLE THE FLIVVER AND LEFT HIM IN SPACE! I KNEW YOU HAD UNCOMMON COURAGE --THE MOMENT I CLIMBED INTO YOUR SHIP!
I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME! I JUST KNEW IT!
EXCUSE ME, MR. SPOCK! WE'VE JUST PICKED UP THE PLANET STYRA ON OUR SCANNER!
WE LANDED NEAR ONE OF THE GIANT TRANSMUTATION PLANTS WHERE AN EXECUTIVE TECHNICIAN EXPLAINED THE OPERATION...
THESE ARE THE LAST STYRANS TO UNDERGO TRANSMUTATION. OUR OWN TECHNICIANS! THE TM-BEAM, LIKE A GIANT LASER, SCANS AND RECORDS THEIR CELL STRUCTURES, WHILE THE EXCESS ENERGY IS BURNED OFF...

THIS SINGLE TAPE, THROUGH MICRO-RECORDING, HOLDS AN ENTIRE CITY OF 100,000 PEOPLE! THE LAST JOB--RECORDING THE PLANET ITSELF--WILL BE DONE FROM A SPACE STATION!
FROM A POINT IN NEAR SPACE, THE GREAT SCANNER DID THE FINAL JOB!
AND THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN--THE PLANET STYRA ON BIO-MAGNETIC RECORDING TAPES! IT AMUSED US TO HAVE THIS FILE CHEST MADE AS A MINIATURE OF OUR WORLD!
MR. SPOCK WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ITS SECURITY!
DO YOUR JOB WELL, MR. SPOCK! 600 MILLION SOULS ARE IN YOUR KEEP!
I WON'T FORGET THAT!
EVEN IN THE TWENTY-THIRD CENTURY, THE THOUGHT OF CARRYING AN ENTIRE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS IS INCREDIBLE!
GIVEN A GREAT ENOUGH EMERGENCY, ALLURA, ONLY THE INCREDIBLE IS PRATICAL! NOW WE'LL LOCK AWAY THE PLANET STYRA!

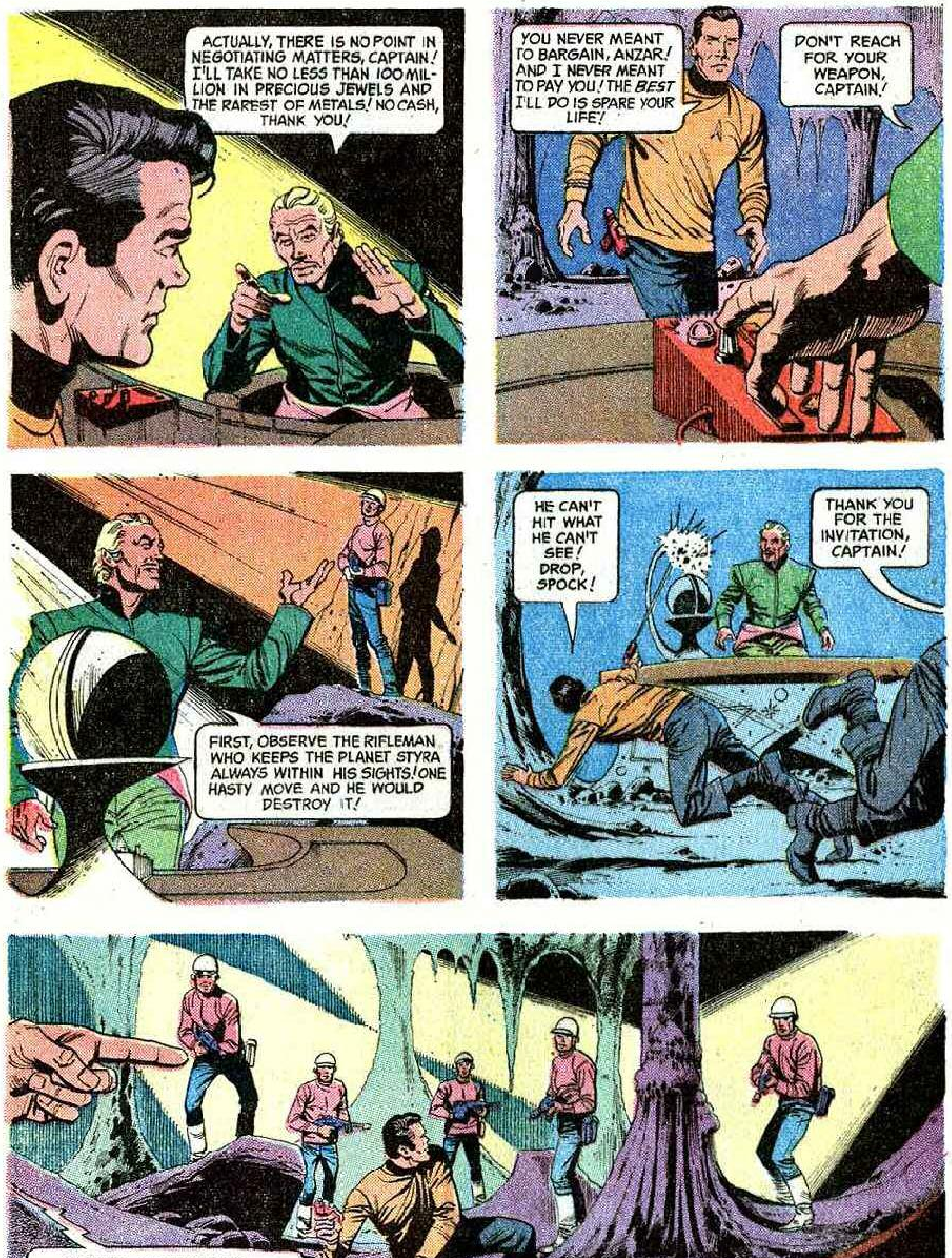

AND WHEN DID YOU THINK YOU'D EVER SEE MR. SPOCK ACTING LIKE A LOVESICK COW?
NEVER, SCOTTY! BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE HE'S NOT JUST A LIVING MACHINE!
MR. SPOCK, THERE WAS NO PERSONNEL REPORT ON MY DESK THIS MORNING! THAT'S THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK!
HOW ABOUT THAT? THE GIRL HAS REALLY GOTTEN TO HIM! MR. SPOCK NEVER FORGOT ANYTHING BEFORE IN HIS LIFE!
UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT APPROACHING! REFUSES TO RETURN OUR SIGNALS!
SEND THE FINAL APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION, WAIT TEN SECONDS AND THEN PUT A SHOT ACROSS THEIR PATH!
BUT BEFORE THE FINAL APPEAL COULD BE MADE...
THEY'VE FIRED SOME KIND OF SUPER-FLARE! IT'S KNOCKED OUT OUR VIDEO-CIRCUITS! WE'RE BLIND! SWITCH TO EMERGENCY V-CIRCUITS!
WE DINNA' HAVE TO SWITCH CIRCUITS! THEY'VE RECOVERED FROM THAT GLARE EXPLOSION!
AND LOOK--THE MYSTERY SHIP IS RUNNING FROM US! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

RED ALERT! RED ALERT! SHIP'S VAULT OPENED BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL!
THE VAULT! GOOD GRIEF-- STYRA!
IT'S GONE! AN ENTIRE WORLD, STOLEN! YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF THIS, MR. SPOCK! EXPLAIN IT TO ME!
THE EXPLANATION HAS GIVEN ITSELF, CAP'N! THE WOMAN--ALLURA-- SHE'S GONE, TOO!
YES, I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS AFTER! YOU SEE, GENTLEMEN, I FOUND ALLURA'S SHIP COMPLETELY FUELED-- AND SO I REALIZED HER "SHIPWRECK" WAS QUITE-- PHONY!
WHAT?! YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?
CALM YOURSELF, CAPTAIN! ALLURA IS TRAPPED IN THE SPACE HATCH! I SET THE TRAP MYSELF LAST NIGHT!
THINK AGAIN, MR. SPOCK! THAT WARNING LIGHT SAYS THAT THE HATCH IS DEFECTIVE! ON CLOSE INSPECTION--
--WE WILL FIND THAT THE OUTER HATCH HAS BEEN BLOWN OPEN! WHILE OUR VIDEO WAS JAMMED, ALLURA BLEW THE HATCH AND ESCAPED TO THE MYSTERY SHIP--WITH THE PLANET STYRA! NICE WORK, MR. SPOCK!
END OF PART I


STAR TREK PART II
The HIJACKED PLANET
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE: 3248.9. WE WERE ENTRUSTED WITH THE LIVES OF AN ENTIRE PLANET AND WE DISHONORED THAT TRUST! ONLY NOW HAS THE ENORMITY OF OUR FAILURE BEGUN TO REVEAL ITSELF!
ATTENTION, STARSHIP ENTERPRISE! I HAVE THE PLANET STYRA IN MY POSSESSION! I BELIEVE IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYBODY COULD MAKE THAT STATEMENT, EH? HA-HA-HA!
CARRY THIS MESSAGE TO THE FEDERATED PLANETS--100 MILLION CREDITS WILL BE DEPOSITED IN MY ACCOUNT WITHIN 24 HOURS--OR STYRA DIES!
HOW DOES THE WOMAN LOOK TO YOU NOW, MR. SPOCK? NOW THAT SHE IS THE CO-ASSASSIN OF 600 MILLION PEOPLE?

WITH A SCRAMBLING DEVICE TO SECURE TRANSMISSION, WE IMMEDIATELY CONVEYED THE MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL...
--LEAVING US NO CHOICE! WE CANNOT PERMIT THE LIVES, THE HISTORY, THE CULTURE OF AN ENTIRE WORLD TO DIE FOR WANT OF MONEY!
GENTLEMEN, THE PROCESS OF RECORDING ENTIRE WORLDS EXISTS! THEREFORE THIS KIND OF BLACKMAIL CAN BE REPEATEDLY APPLIED! IT MUST STOP--NOW!
YES!
RIGHT!
CALL THE VOTE!
THE VOTE HAS BEEN CARRIED! WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING--SHORT OF PAYING BLACKMAIL--TO SAVE STYRA! THIS DECISION REMAINS--TOP SECRET!
THIS DECISION SHALL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY, SO THAT YOU MAY BE FREE TO ACT, CAPTAIN KIRK!
I UNDERSTAND, SIR --WE'LL NEED ALL THE MANEUVERING ROOM WE CAN GET! THIS ANZAR MEANS BUSINESS!
YOUR BASIC TERMS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE COUNCIL! BUT CERTAIN DETAILS NEED TO BE WORKED OUT!
WHY, CAPTAIN--YOU'RE BARGAINING! FINE--I'M AN OLD TRADER MYSELF! I'LL MEET YOU IN THE GREAT CAVE OF LUROTA AT NOON TOMORROW!

HE'LL MEET WITH ONLY TWO OF US! I WANT YOU, MR. SPOCK! MAYBE YOU CAN START UNSCRAMBLING THIS MESS YOU MADE!
I HOPE YOU'VE CONSIDERED THIS CAREFULLY, CAPTAIN! ONE SLIP--AND THAT WORLD IS *DEAD!*
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU DECIDED TO PLAY A LONE HAND, MR. SPOCK! THAT'S HOW WE GOT INTO THIS!
A VERY IMPRESSIVE OFFICE! YOU DO WELL FOR A SECOND-RATE ENTERTAINER, MR. ANZAR!
IT'S ALL NEW, GENTLEMEN! AMAZING HOW MUCH CREDIT YOU CAN GET WHEN SOMEBODY KNOWS YOU'RE ABOUT TO COME INTO A FORTUNE! HA-HA-HA-HA!


ACTUALLY, THERE IS NO POINT IN NEGOTIATING MATTERS, CAPTAIN! I'LL TAKE NO LESS THAN 100 MIL-LION IN PRECIOUS JEWELS AND THE RAREST OF METALS! NO CASH, THANK YOU!
YOU NEVER MEANT TO BARGAIN, ANZAR! AND I NEVER MEANT TO PAY YOU! THE BEST I'LL DO IS SPARE YOUR LIFE!
DON'T REACH FOR YOUR WEAPON, CAPTAIN!
FIRST, OBSERVE THE RIFLEMAN WHO KEEPS THE PLANET STYRA ALWAYS WITHIN HIS SIGHTS! ONE HASTY MOVE AND HE WOULD DESTROY IT!
HE CAN'T HIT WHAT HE CAN'T SEE! DROP, SPOCK!
THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION, CAPTAIN!
ANOTHER MISJUDGMENT, CAPTAIN! I AM NOT A ONE-MAN SHOW ANY LONGER! GENTLEMEN-- MEET SOME OF THE MOST CHARMING CUT-THROATS IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE!

WE'VE REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME, MR. SPOCK! THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE OUR HEADS FOR IT!
IF THERE ARE ANY HEADS LEFT TO HAVE, CAPTAIN!
I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT TUNNEL, YOU TAKE THE LEFT!
THE FIRST MAN WHO SPOTS AN EXIT CRIES OUT! GOOD LUCK!
NO-- I'M AFRAID IT WAS BAD LUCK, MR. SPOCK!
HERE YOU GO, SPOCK! IT'S NOT THE BEST GRUB GOING, BUT IT'LL KEEP YOUR BACKBONE FROM MEETIN' YOUR BELLY BUTTON!
VERY GRACIOUS OF YOU -- AND ANZAR!
PSSST! IT'S ME!
AHHH! I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANYWHERE! THE GREAT BETRAYER OF SPACE--ALLURA!

FORGIVE ME! I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! YOU SEE --ANZAR IS MY BROTHER! AND HE'S-- HE'S NOT WELL!
THAT IS THE GREATEST UNDERSTATEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF INTELLIGENT LIFE!
I HAVE TO PROTECT HIM! THEY'LL PUT HIM AWAY, OTHERWISE!
FORGIVE ME IF I FIND MYSELF MORE CONCERNED WITH THE FATE OF 600 MILLION STYRANS!
IF YOU WANT TO UNDO SOME OF THE HARM, SUPPOSE YOU INDUCE YOUR BROTHER TO SURRENDER STYRA!
NOTHING TURNS HIM ASIDE FROM HIS WILD SCHEMES! BUT -- I WILL TRY!
WHAT? SURRENDER TO THESE FOOLS --WHEN I HAVE THEM AT MY MERCY?
LET THEM HAVE IT, ANZAR! YOU NEED REST! WE COULD GO AWAY TOGETHER!
NO! THEY WILL PAY--YOU'LL SEE!
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY NEVER PLANNED TO PAY AT ALL! IN WHICH CASE--YOU ARE GOOD AS DEAD, MR. SPOCK!

LATER, MR. SPOCK ASKED FOR A SECOND MEETING...
I HAVE NO WISH TO DEPART THE LIVING BEFORE MY TIME, ANZAR! YOU ARE RIGHT--THE COUNCIL WILL NOT PAY!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME, FOOL? IT'S YOUR DEATH WARRANT!
BECAUSE I HAVE A VERY SIMPLE SCHEME BY WHICH YOU CAN GET DOUBLE WHAT YOU'RE ASK-ING--GUARANTEED!
YOU'RE A MAN OF MANY TALENTS, MR. SPOCK--DUPLICITY BEING ONE! BUT SPEAK ON!
THOSE TRANSMUTATION TAPES CONTAIN EVERY CITIZEN OF STYRA--INCLUDING THE VERY WEALTHIEST! THINK OF WHAT *THEY* WOULD PAY FOR THEIR OWN WORLD!
MARVELOUS! HA-HA! THEY WOULDN'T BE SO COOL ABOUT IT AS THE COUNCIL--*WAIT!* HOW COULD WE COMMUNICATE WITH MEN ON *TAPE?*
WITH THE PORTABLE TRANSMUTATION MACHINE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE--WHICH I WILL STEAL FOR YOU!
KNOWING ALL THE SECRETS OF OUR SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, MR. SPOCK WAS ABLE TO SLIP UP ON OUR SHIP UNOBSERVED!

HE WAS TOTALLY UNDETECTED, EXCEPT FOR ONE CHANCE ENCOUNTER WHICH HE QUICKLY HANDLED!
UGGGGGGHHH!
AND WITHIN THE HOUR, THE PORTABLE TRANSMUTER WAS ABOARD THEIR SHIP AND ON ITS WAY TO LUROTA!
MARVELOUS! BUT HOW DO WE LOCATE THEIR RICHEST MEN-- KIXO, NAGATYU, ZINDFLO--?
IT'S ALL VERY CAREFULLY INDEXED! THE MACHINE CAN LOCATE THAT SINGLE DOT ON THE TAPE CONTAINING ANY ONE PERSON!
BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO CLEAR THE MACHINE OF ANY PREVIOUS MATERIAL! BIO-RECORDING IS THE MOST DELICATE WORK, OBVIOUSLY!
WHA--?
AM I INTRUDING?
SHAME ON YOU, ANZAR! DIDN'T YOU EVER READ ABOUT THE TROJAN HORSE?

SPOCK DIDN'T "FALL" INTO YOUR HANDS, ANZAR! WE PLANNED IT--SO HE COULD SLIP THE TRANSMUTER ON BOARD HERE--WITH US RECORDED INSIDE IT!

SCORE ONE FOR ME, LADDIES!
ARRRGH!
I'M RIGHT UP THERE WITH YOU, SCOTTY! I GOT ONE!
AND YOU, SIR-- WOULD DO WELL TO SURRENDER!
YES! YES! I SURRENDER!

I SEE NOT EVERYBODY HAS SURRENDERED!
CORRECT, CAPTAIN! IT IS OBVIOUS THAT I CAN DESTROY STYRA FASTER THAN YOU CAN MOVE--NOW --WE WILL DO AS PLANNED!
WE SHALL EXTRACT THE BILLIONAIRES AND LET THEM PAY FOR STYRA!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, LADDIES! I'LL HANDLE THE CONTROLS ON THE MACHINE!
DON'T DO IT, SCOTTY! HE CAN'T HANDLE IT HIMSELF! IF WE DON'T COOPERATE --
SHUT UP! I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T! I MEAN IT!
IT'S OUR LIVES OR THEIR MONEY, CAP'N! I THINK YOU'LL AGREE WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT!
AYEEEE!
EASY, ANZAR! HE'S A REGULAR BEAST WHEN HE'S BEEN LOCKED UP FOR A LONG WHILE!
RROWFFFFF! RROWFFFFF!

STOP HIM! GET HIM OFF ME! HE'LL KILL ME!
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM SOONER? HE COULD HAVE TORN ME TO RIBBONS!
I DIDN'T KNOW LIFE WAS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU, ANZAR! WEREN'T YOU THREATENING TO TAKE 600 MILLION OF THEM?
THIS WON'T STOP ME, YOU KNOW! I HAVE OTHER PLANS! SCHEMES FAR BEYOND THE GRASP OF YOUR LITTLE BRAINS! YOU'LL SEE!
PERHAPS! BUT FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEE ME--I'M A DOCTOR! AND YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF US!
WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH HIM?
PSYCHO-PROFILES...CHEMO-THERAPY... REORIENTATION...IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE PRECISE CONDITION! BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY GET HIM BACK ONE DAY!
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG THAT I WAS SENT TO TRAP YOU! I NEVER HAD YOU INTERESTED IN ME FOR A MINUTE!
DON'T SHORT-SELL YOURSELF, ALLURA! YOU'RE AN UNCOMMONLY LOVELY WOMAN!

SHALL WE SAY--YOU MADE IT VERY EASY FOR ME TO PRETEND THAT I LOVED YOU?
I--I--I'LL SETTLE FOR THAT!
HOW DID YOU EVER THINK OF BRINGING THAT TAPE OF THE DOG WITH YOU?
I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE! I TAPED THE DOG EARLIER BECAUSE I KNEW HOW YOU FELT ABOUT--
WHAT'S THAT DOG DOING UP HERE? I KNOW HE'S A HERO--BUT THERE ARE NO PETS PERMITTED ABOARD! MUCH LESS IN THE CONTROL ROOM!
AS I WAS SAYING--I KNEW HOW YOU FELT ABOUT PETS ON BOARD SHIP! SO I THOUGHT I'D RECORD HIM AGAIN BEFORE YOU HAD HIM SHOT OR SOMETHING!
QUITE RIGHT, MR. SCOTT! ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF HAVING HIM SERVED AT OFFICER'S MESS!
HA-HA-HA!
THE END

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